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SYDNEY CROATIA
sets up big tour

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AROK SHOOTS FOR REFORM



South Melbourne defender Steve Blair (right) comes in just as Blacktown City's Eric Ferguson shoots at Gabbie Sadium on Saturday — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

Andy Koczka's club ultimatum



AUSTRALIA should immediately set its sights on winning a place in the next Olympic Games football semi-finals, hopefully to be held in Melbourne in 1996.

This is but one of the strong recommendations put forward for Australian Soccer Federation attention by outgoing national coach, Frank Arok.

Arok sees the need for a four or six year cycle for efficient operation of the Socceroos — preferably six years in view of the emphasis he places on the Olympics tourney.

There would of

course still be a whole-hearted World Cup drive, but presumably the Olympics would provide the stepping stone.

But, unless there is absolute reform, he sees no hope of Australia scaling the heights, in competition with so many countries that are making huge strides with their football ambitions.

Stepping down after

seven years in charge of the Socceroos, Arok commented: "As it stands, we cannot get out of our negative situation."

"I had no real problem with Sir Arthur George or his successor, Ian Brusasco, both of whom were very helpful.

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ANDY Koczka, in his eighth season at St George, is becoming increasingly agitated by the player drain, which has seen Scott Ollerenshaw, Pedro Ricoy, David Ratcliffe, Mike Grbevski and Alan Pottier as recent defections.

"I'm not hanging around when my contract expires at the end of the season unless there are three or four experienced players actually signed up for next season," he said.

"Our playing strength is very weak. There are just too many young players who haven't got the experience for the NSL

and there is just too much pressure on me to take on the pitch.

"It's imperative to stay in the QNSL but I'm running out of time and I want to play in a successful team."

Koczka, now 24, revealed that he has been speaking with national teammate Graham Arnold about playing for Sydney Croatia.

"I won't be speaking to anyone officially about this outside of St George until I talk with Frank Arok, but if St George doesn't drastically improve its playing strength then I'll definitely move on," he said.

Movement on the under 20 front

BY LOU GAUTIER



CRAIG JOHNSTON — a new job as "ambassador"?

AUSTRALIA may host the Oceania qualifiers for the 1991 World Youth Cup following Papua New Guinea's withdrawal from hosting the tournament.

A series in Papua New Guinea was always going to be a risky proposition because of the local federation's lack of finance, but the official reason given for the decision is the current unrest in Bougainville.

The ASF is definitely interested in staging the qualifiers here and if that is approved by FIFA, there is a good chance Israel may compete as first mooted by FIFA before their controversial decision to have the first two placed teams in the Oceania tournament travel to Israel for a play-off.

Australia, not surprisingly, believe that would unfairly advantage Israel, but by the same token the Israelis may now have grounds for complaint if they are forced to qualify on Australian soil.

Since Israel have been included in the

European zone for all future World Cup qualifiers, it is hard to understand why they continue to play in Oceania, and elsewhere, at youth level.

While on the subject of the Young Socceroos, the hot tip is that Gary Cole will be appointed coach of the under 20 Australian team next week.

Cole until recently was involved with the Australian Institute of Sport and had a brief stint as Frank Arok's assistant with the Socceroos last year.

His appointment is bound to be controversial in the light of the dismissal of the long-serving and reasonably successful Les Scheinflug-Raul Blanco duo, who to this day have yet to be officially notified that their services have been terminated.

The youth squad spent a week in camp earlier this month at the AIS under former Socceroo coach Frank Arok, who has been filling in while an official appointment is made.

Also picked up on the grapevine is a rumour that the ASF may appoint Craig Johnston as its 'official

ambassador' for the 1993 Youth World Cup which will be staged here in 1993.

His duties would be to seek sponsors for the event and to publicise it.

If this rumour proves correct, it is also bound to create controversy as there are many people in the Australian soccer community who have not forgiven Johnston for turning his back on the Socceroos.

Watch for further developments on all fronts.

Sydney Croatia set to play in Europe

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

EDENSOR Park based NSL club Sydney Croatia has finalised plans for a 21 day tour of Yugoslavia in July, which is certain to give a further boost to Australian soccer in the highly professional European circuit.

Croatia is set to follow in the footsteps of near neighbors Marconi, who embarked on a similar pre-season tour of Czechoslovakia last October and recorded some unexpectedly good results.

This latest venture by Croatia was organised in conjunction with the Croatia Football Association, and is one which is expected to promote a great deal of goodwill between the two countries.

The travelling party leaves Sydney on July 3 and matches have already been confirmed against leading first division sides Dinamo Zagreb and Hajduk Split, with a further two games

against second division Gosk Dubrovnik and another Zagreb club.

There is also a strong possibility that a fifth match can be organised.

An exciting feature of this tour is an arrangement which will see six of Croatia's most promising youngsters remaining behind at the end of the trip for up to three months training with both Dinamo and Hajduk.

Providing agreement can be reached with sister club Melbourne Croatia, the touring party may include guest players Zeljko Adzic, John Markovski and Branko Milosevic, while negotiations are taking place for European based Australians Eddie Krncevic and Robbie Slater to join them in Zagreb.

Although this trip has only recently been confirmed, Sydney Croatia has already had 120 firm bookings from supporters wanting to travel with the team and expect the final number of exceed 200.



ROBBIE SLATER

Doctored crowds a sick joke

BY LOU GAUTIER

ONSL crowds continue to fluctuate wildly, with attendance figures released to pressmen covering the games more often than not bearing no resemblance to those officially listed by the NSL office in their weekly press releases.

Round 19 was a case in point.

The announced crowds that accompanied the Australian Associated Press match reports, which almost always coincide with those supplied by the clubs to ASW reporters at the games, were nothing like those released by the NSL secretariat in three instances.

Those were the 'official' attendances, according to the NSL press release, with AAP's and ASW's in brackets:

- St George v Adelaide City — 989 (989)
- Sydney Croatia v Preston — 4986 (4986)
- Sunshine v Apia — 761 (1520)
- Melita Eagles v Blacktown — 1762 (1762)
- Ad Hellas v Melb Croatia — 1627 (2732)
- Sth Melbourne v Syd Olympic — 2500 (4310)
- Wollongong v Marconi — 1721 (1721)

Our Melbourne friends will again claim bias, but once again it is the Melbourne attendances that don't tally with the NSL figures.

And that, of course, is not the first time this has happened.

But to double the crowds, really fellers...

Going on the NSL figures, Round 19 only attracted 14,346 spectators, nothing like the 18,190 for the weekend ASW and the daily newspapers published in good faith.

The scandal of inflated soccer crowds has been a bane of the code for as long as I can remember.

When will the cheating stop?

Who is kidding whom, and why?

Perhaps it is time the NSL sets down firm rules and starts handing out hefty fines to clubs who doctor their home attendances.



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Souths to put pressure on Marconi

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

MARCONI travel to South Melbourne on Sunday and the battle between the first and third teams could well be the match of the season.

Table-topping Marconi remain on target for their third successive championship despite losing at home to the vastly improved Melita Eagles last Sunday, while Souths trounced relegation-doomed Blacktown City in another polished display.

The loss to Melita was Marconi's first defeat in eight matches and the champions must win on Sunday to remain on top.

Marconi continue to attack through the middle with Ian Gray and Tom McCulloch dominating.

Gerry Gomez has again found his uncanny knack of scoring important goals, and at the back Robbie Wheatley and Gary van Egmond have never played better.

With seven goals shared between them in the last four matches, Souths' strike double of Kim Taliadoros and Peter Tsolakis are proving more than a handful for opposing defences, while Paul Trimboli continues to pull the strings and create chances for the dynamic duo.

At home, where they remain unbeaten this season and with three wins on the trot, South Melbourne should be entitled to slight favouritism.

Earlier in the season the sides drew 0-0, and a draw seems likely again when they meet on Sunday.

A new look Black-

town City could be on show when they visit Sydney Croatia.

Demons coach Tony Henderson, who may be without Peter Bennett through suspension, has conceded his side is doomed to the 'big drop' and is prepared to introduce younger players to gain NSL experience over the remaining six matches.

Old campaigners Paul Carter and Charlie Yankos have seemingly failed to add stability to a rocky Blacktown defence, while up front Aussie international Zlatko Arambasic last scored against Croatia back in December.

No doubt Zarko Odzakovic will pull out a big performance against his former club, whose fantasy of a final five position ended in the dramatic loss to Sydney Olympic last week.

Croatia boss Tony Vrzina lost his unbeaten run of nine matches at Olympic, but Blacktown last beat Croatia six years ago and are hardly likely to change their fortunes this week.

Long break

Sunshine last beat Sydney Olympic back in 1987, and on Sunday play host to the Greek-backed side which is making a late surge for the semi-finals.

Victims of a 4-0 thrashing at the hands of Preston, Sunshine are still not clear of the relegation zone and their increasing injury list has hampered coach Ernie Merrick's plans for the season.

Olympic moved to within a point of the Top Five with a sterling performance against Croatia, but have not won in their last six matches away from

home.

Olympic custodian Clint Gosling and striker Marko Perinovic have been in outstanding form. With the possible inclusion of Alistair Edwards the visitors should win.

Adelaide City, who dropped to fourth following the draw at Apia last weekend, host their bogey side Preston fresh from a 4-0 rout of Sunshine.

Preston's win and the recent return of stars Andrew Zinni and Oscar Crino has given the Melbourne side a new lease of life and an outside chance of making the play-offs, but they must down the difficult City on Sunday.

The points are just as vital to Zoran Matijevic's side. Despite one loss in their last 11 matches, Adelaide City are just one point ahead of sixth placed Olympic.

Preston were victorious when the two sides met back in round 8, and again the visitors could surprise at Hindmarsh.

St George dropped deeper in trouble with the loss at Adelaide Hellas last week, and on Sunday come up against the inconsistent Apia.

Unable to field a settled side through injuries and suspensions, Apia may have Rod Brown added to the injury list after he hobbled off against Adelaide City last Sunday.

Their coach Manfred Schafer's tale of woe may continue as Graham Jennings and Alex Bundalo are both fast accumulating penalty points and may miss the clash with the Saints.



South Melbourne goalkeeper Bruce MacLaren fists away against Blacktown last week. He will have to be in top form against QNSL leaders Marconi this weekend — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

Magician

St George maestro Frank Arok will once again need to wave his magic wand to save his side this season as, like Apia, Arok's charges have not won for five matches.

Saints keeper John Filan has been the most outstanding new talent unearthed this season, while up front Arok will look to Tony Krslovic to continue to pop away his chances.

A draw looks most likely as both sides

scramble for points to stop the rot.

Second placed Melbourne Croatia travel to Melita Stadium for the

first time to take on the high-flying Eagles on Saturday night.

Raul Blanco's side has come of age with impressive results in the past few weeks, including defeats of both Marconi and Adelaide City.

At home the Eagles have won five straight, and are now a rough chance for the semi-finals if they can add the scalp of Melbourne Croatia on Sunday.

With six wins from their last seven starts, Croatia will be more than difficult to toss. As displayed against Wollongong City last week they are creating plenty of chances.

Croatia's long unbeaten run at the start of the season was halted by Melita at Somers Street, and, in what should be a classic match between two fine sides, the visitors may just sneak the points.

All other round 21 matches hinge on Top Five positions, but a battle of different sorts will be raging at Brandon Park when Wollongong host Adelaide Hellas on Sunday.

Visiting Adelaide Hellas ended a run of four defeats in which they conceded 12 goals when they downed the troubled Saints last week.

Back in round 8 they thrashed the Wolves 4-1, their first win in eight years over their opponents on Sunday.

While Wollongong have never been beaten at home by Hellas, a loss on Sunday will draw them just two points from the relegation zone following two straight defeats.

With so much at stake for both clubs a draw looks likely, although home ground advantage might just possibly edge the result Wollongong's way.

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Quit National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi.....	20	11	6	3	39	18	28
Melbourne Croatia.....	20	11	4	5	40	21	26
South Melbourne.....	20	11	4	5	29	18	26
Adelaide City.....	20	9	7	4	31	19	25
Apia Leichhardt.....	20	9	7	4	28	18	25
Sydney Olympic.....	20	10	4	6	33	20	24
Preston.....	20	8	4	8	24	23	20
Melita Eagles.....	20	8	4	8	18	20	20
Sydney Croatia.....	20	7	5	8	29	31	19
Sunshine GC.....	20	6	4	10	23	36	16
Wollongong City.....	20	6	4	10	19	34	16
St George.....	20	4	6	10	22	34	14
Adelaide Hellas.....	20	5	2	13	18	41	12
Blacktown City.....	20	3	3	14	22	42	9

Results

MIDWEEK DEFERRED GAMES

MARCONI 3 (McCulloch, van Egmond, Gomez)
ST GEORGE 2 (T. Krslovic 2) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 2366.

ROUND 20

BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (P. Carter) SOUTH MELBOURNE 3 (P. Tsolakis 2, J. Palatsides) at Gabbie Stadium. Crowd: 501.

APIA LEICHHARDT 0 ADELAIDE CITY 0 at Lambert Park. Crowd: 1411.

ADELAIDE HELLAS 1 (P. Rankin) ST GEORGE 0 at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 4000 (est).

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3 (M. Perinovic, N. Plataniotis, E. Hristodoulou) SYDNEY CROATIA 2 (D. Seal, M. Jones) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 5343.

MARCONI 0 MELITA EAGLES 1 (H. Gimenez) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 6359.

PRESTON 4 (R. Markovac 2, A. Zinni, S. Smith) SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS at Connor Reserve. Crowd: 1990.

MELBOURNE CROATIA 3 (I. Kelic, Z. Adzic, B. Milosevic) WOLLONGONG CITY 0 at Somers Street. Crowd: 1850.

Crowds

ROUND 20: 21,454
AVERAGE PER GAME: 3,065
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 416,073

Top Scorers

Greg Brown	(Melita Eagles)	11
Zlatko Nastevski	(Marconi)	11
Abbas Saad	(Olympic)	11
Rod Brown	(Apia Leichhardt)	10
David Seal	(Sydney Croatia)	10
Zeljko Adzic	(Melbourne Croatia)	9
Tony Krslovic	(St George)	9
Steve Smith	(Preston)	9
Peter Tsolakis	(South Melbourne)	9

Team of Round 19

P. Tsoleridis (Ad Hellas)
A. Marth (Melb Croatia)
A. Callinan (Melita)
A. Davidson (Melb Croatia)
W. Gonzalez (Melita)
A. Bernal (Sydney Olympic)
R. Ironside (Sydney Olympic)
E. Hristodoulou (Syd Olympic)
D. Seal (Sydney Croatia)
O. Crino (Preston)
R. Blair (Adelaide Hellas)

Player of Round 19*

Chris Tsoleridis (Ad Hellas)



Souths' Paul Trimboli in control against the Demons — he scored a goal. Photo by HEC-TOR CARRASCO.

Demons collapse in searing heat

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

IN what must have been the most depressing QNSL match I watched all season, South Melbourne consolidated its Top Five position by easily defeating a lethargic Blacktown City 3-1 at the Gabbie Stadium on Saturday, but there were no real winners on the day as both sides struggled to finish the game in the sizzling mid-afternoon sun.

The original intention of a switch to summer soccer was supposed to provide players and fans with matches in the cool of the evening, instead, the meagre 500 souls who were either brave or mad enough to venture out in the sweltering conditions were subjected to the sight of a visibly distressed 19-year-old Blacktown debutant Jason Connolly taken off at half-time suffering from severe dehydration and a contest which was reduced to walking pace after just half an hour.

Demons officials went to great lengths to emphasise that every possible effort was made to change the match to an evening kick-off but were flatly refused permission to do so.

As for the match itself — and it's taking generosity to the extreme to even call it that — the result virtually dooms Blacktown to relegation.

Despite holding a clear territorial advantage early in the game which could have seen both Geoff Gunning and Eric Ferguson open the score, the Demons

again capitulated to a soft Joe Palatsides goal in the 16th minute and never really looked capable of fighting back.

Their few half-chances all went begging and little Peter Tsolakis ensured defeat when he struck twice within three minutes on either side of half-time.

The first came from a flashing header beyond the reach of keeper Bill Londo after Paul Fernandes was allowed plenty of time to put over his good cross a minute before the break, then Tsolakis ran through unopposed two minutes after the restart to clinically finish off the brilliant lead-up work of Paul Trimboli.

With the energy-sapping temperature of 30 degrees plus visibly taking its toll, Souths were simply content to stroke the ball around with minimum effort to preserve their match-winning lead and although the Demons went close when Charlie Yankos smashed his freekick against the crossbar after an hour and Paul Carter pulled one back with a vicious left foot drive in the 68th minute, one always had the impression that Blacktown were fighting a lost cause.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Londo 5, Carter 6, Reynolds 5, Yankos 5, Maier 5, Bennett 5, Gibson 5, Ferguson 5, Odzakovic 5, Connolly 5 (McCardie 5), Gunning 5 (McKinna 70m).

SOUTH MELBOURNE: MacLaren 6, Healy 6, Postecoglou 5, Durakovic 6, Blair 6, Wade 6, Palatsides 6, Fernandes 5 (Mori 75m), Trimboli 6, Wright 6, Tsolakis 6.

SCORERS: Palatsides 16m, Tsolakis 45 & 47m for South Melbourne; Carter 68m for Blacktown.

YELLOW CARDS: Gunning 67m, Reynolds 77m, Bennett 86m for Blacktown; Tsolakis 39m, Wright 58 for South Melbourne.

REFEREE: J. McConnell 6. CROWD: 501.

Sydney Olympic win a thriller

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY Olympic strengthened their Top Five aspirations with a well-deserved 3-2 victory over Sydney Croatia at St George Stadium last Sunday before their largest home crowd of the season.

Croatia's champion goalkeeper Tony Franken denied Olympic a much bigger scoreline when he brilliantly blocked two Robbie Ironside efforts as early as in the ninth minute (a fabulous 20-metre half-volley) and again in the 13th minute (a header following a corner).

Olympic finally struck gold in the 11th minute through their lanky striker Marko Perinovic. Scott Ollerenshaw gained possession deep in his own half and relayed to striker Grant Lee.

As Lee was tumbled by the cover-defence, the ball spilled to Perinovic who raced away 30 metres to score from 12 metres out under the advanced, outstretched body of Franken.

Olympic looked like they were going to score a heap of goals, but in the 24th minute they conceded a penalty through centre back Nick Plataniotis who cut down David Seal well inside the box without possession but Alan Hunter missed the spot-kick.

Ironside, with right midfielder Andrew Bernal, ran riot with their crashing raids and in the 58th minute forced a

corner which resulted in Olympic's second goal.

Ollerenshaw slung the corner in from the right and Plataniotis made up for conceding the earlier penalty by getting up and nodding the ball into the net from only two metres.

Three minutes later Olympic made it 3-0 with a sensational goal by the ever-improving midfielder star Eric Hristodoulou who pumped a long throughball up front to Lee, who missed gathering it.

Franken's desperate clearing kick struck Hristodoulou, who had raced up in support, on the chest and ricocheted into Croatia's net.

Seal was finally rewarded for his hard work in the 71st minute when he scored from a rebound. Mark Jones belted a 30-metre drive that crashed on to Olympic's crossbar and Seal did the rest.

With 10 minutes left, Croatia were in again. Olympic had just

cleared the ball from their defence, but only as far as to the feet of the Croatia sweeper — and from 35 metres out he unleashed a rocketing drive that exploded into the top left hand corner of Clint Gosling's net to roll the scoreboard over to a more respectable 3-2.

Ollerenshaw streaked away from the Sydney Croatia defence with six minutes left on the clock, but the midfielder rifled his angled 14-metre drive just past the far post.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gosling 8, Barrett 6, Plataniotis 6, Hooker 6, Georgakis 6, Bernal 8, Ironside 8, Hristodoulou 8, Ollerenshaw 6, Lee 6, Perinovic 6.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken 8, Rumora 6, Hunter 6, Jones 7, Grbevski 6, Ricoy 6 (Jurin 64m), Kupresak 6, Golevic 6, Seal 8, Arnold 7, Lamond 7.

SCORERS: Perinovic 11m, Plataniotis 58m, Hristodoulou 61m for Olympic; Seal 71m, Jones 80m for Croatia.

YELLOW CARD: Plataniotis 23m for Olympic.

REFEREE: J Santa Isabel 8. CROWD: 5343.

Olympic-Croatia in the NSL Cup

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY Olympic are expected to make at least three changes from Sunday's line-up for tonight's (Wednesday) NSL Cup second round match against Sydney Croatia at St George Stadium.

Olympic beat Croatia 3-2 when they met last Sunday in a Round 20 QNSL game at the same venue.

Gary Meier, Tony Dakos and Gary Phillips are expected to come into the Olympic side.

Olympic coach Mick

Hickman said: "I want to give the three a run and I am considering bringing in Jason Bennetts well. A couple of my regulars are in doubt after suffering heavy knocks at the weekend."

If last Sunday's match is any guide, tonight's clash should be another exhibition of fast, open attacking football that will have the spectators on their feet.

Olympic have defeated Croatia on the two occasions they have met this season, but Cup football is a different story altogether.

NSL CUP

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14
SYDNEY OLYMPIC v SYDNEY CROATIA

St George Stadium, 7.30pm



Preston still alive

BY JOHN MANGAN

AFTER a lacklustre run in recent weeks Preston bounced back with a convincing 4-0 win over Melbourne rivals Sunshine George Cross, at Connor Reserve on Sunday.

The result gives the team an outside chance of making the Top Five as the club still has to play fellow finals contenders Adelaide City, Apia Leichhardt and Sydney Olympic before the end of the season.

Oscar Crino, only recently back from injury, was a crucial cog in the Preston machine, while fans have the prospect of defensive linchpin, Zoran Tasevski, returning from suspension next weekend.

For Sunshine George Cross coach Ernie Merrick it was a disappointing return to his former club as his new club capitulated in the second half to give Preston its biggest win of the season.

Merrick's team came to Connor Reserve looking for a point, but their strategy was undone in only the 10th minute when George Jolevski pumped a through-ball to George Petrov whose cross was met by Andrew Zinni storming in at the far post.

Preston dominated the first term and Zinni was back in the action again early in the second half when he knocked the ball wide for Robbie Markovac



GEOFF GUNNING (No 11) of Blacktown City in a heading duel with South Melbourne's Paul Fernandes last weekend when Souths won 3-1 — HECTOR CARRASCO pic.



who raced into the penalty area and struck a shot that went in through the legs of the unfortunate Sunshine keeper, Sean Keogh.

With a packed defence and only Gary Hasler playing up front, Sunshine George Cross had no answer to the Preston onslaught.

Crino set up Make-donia's third with a free-kick in the 65th minute which was

flicked by Markovac to Steve Smith who buried it past Keogh.

The Socceroo midfielder also set up Preston's fourth and final goal in the first minute of extra time.

He directed a searching through ball down the right flank which substitute John Metaxas ran onto and centred to Robbie Markovac who made no mistake, notching up his second goal for the afternoon.

PRESTON: Traianedes 6, Temcevic 6, Jolevski 6, Runje 6, Woodall 7, Petrov (J Markovac 82m), R Markovac 6, Smith 6 (Metaxas 78m), Crino 7, Zinni 6.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Keogh 5, Alevisos 4 (Zacharias 46m), Roodhouse 5, Waddell 6, Parton 6, Ketsakidis 5, Kindtner 5, Tapai (Attard 83m), Hasler 5, Fabrizio 5, Muscat 6.

REFEREE: Peter Spiers 6. **CROWD:** 1990.

Melita's win opens up the title race

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

to pull off a superb save off a David Lowe snapshot after just eight minutes and a brilliantly worked free kick involving four players completely opened up the Eagles' defence three minutes later and left a totally unmarked Gerry Gomez with the goal at his mercy but he hit his shot wide of the upright.

Gomez was again heavily involved in a goalline clearance by Alfredo Barrios in the 21st minute and his ability to get free of his marker was creating havoc in the box but Melita somehow held out and even came close to breaking the deadlock with a Greg Brown header which flashed past the post on the stroke of half-time.

Any thoughts that Marconi may have entertained of gradually wearing down a highly spirited Melita in the second half were dashed six minutes after the break when Marshall Soper, who was allowed to roam free inside the box, picked up an early ball from Greg Dickinson and pushed across the face of goal for Hugo Gimenez to sweep over the line.

From that moment on the Eagles grew in confidence and a superbly marshalled defence led by Uruguayan international Washington Gonzalez was able to defy all attempts of an equaliser.

Melita in fact countered intelligently on the break and could have increased their lead in the 71st minute when Catlin pulled off a super-save from Craig Mason and Brown twice wasted good opportunities to clinch victory.

In the end, Melita finished a thoroughly

entertaining game full of running and Gimenez should have grabbed his second in the final few minutes when he took a return ball from Brown in his stride but was unable to get it past Catlin.

MARCONI: Catlin 8, van Egmond 6, de Marigny 6, Calderan 6, Wheatley 6, Gomez 7

(Glavovic 61m), McCulloch 6, Okon 6 (Katholos 78m), De Jong 6, Colucci 6, Lowe 7. **MELITA:** McPherson 8, Dickinson 6, Callanan 7, Barrios 7, Gonzalez 8, Mason 6, Vial 5 (Falce 5), Gimenez 6, Soper 6, Genc 6, Brown 5, (Williams 88m).

SCORERS: Gimenez 51m for Melita Eagles. **REFEREE:** D. Voutsinas 7. **CROWD:** 6359.



No approach over Craig Johnston

BY KEITH GILMOUR

ASF president Ian Brusasco yesterday denied having made an approach to former Liverpool star Craig Johnston to take control as coach of the Australian under 20 team.

Mr Brusasco said: "Craig Johnston and his manager Karen Grega approached us to become associated with the youth of this country, in a proposition that covered a number of different aspects."

"We asked for formal proposals, which have now come to hand and which will go before the commissioners after the annual meeting on March 31."

The business of Johnston possibly being involved as coach arose as the result of a report in last Sunday's Sunday Telegraph.

It was to the effect that Johnston had

been offered the position of "boss of the Young Socceroos when Australia hosts the 1993 World Youth Championship final."

ASF writer John Economos contacted NSW president and ASF commissioner John Constantine for his opinion.

Mr Constantine is to contest the ASF presidency with Mr Brusasco at the annual meeting.

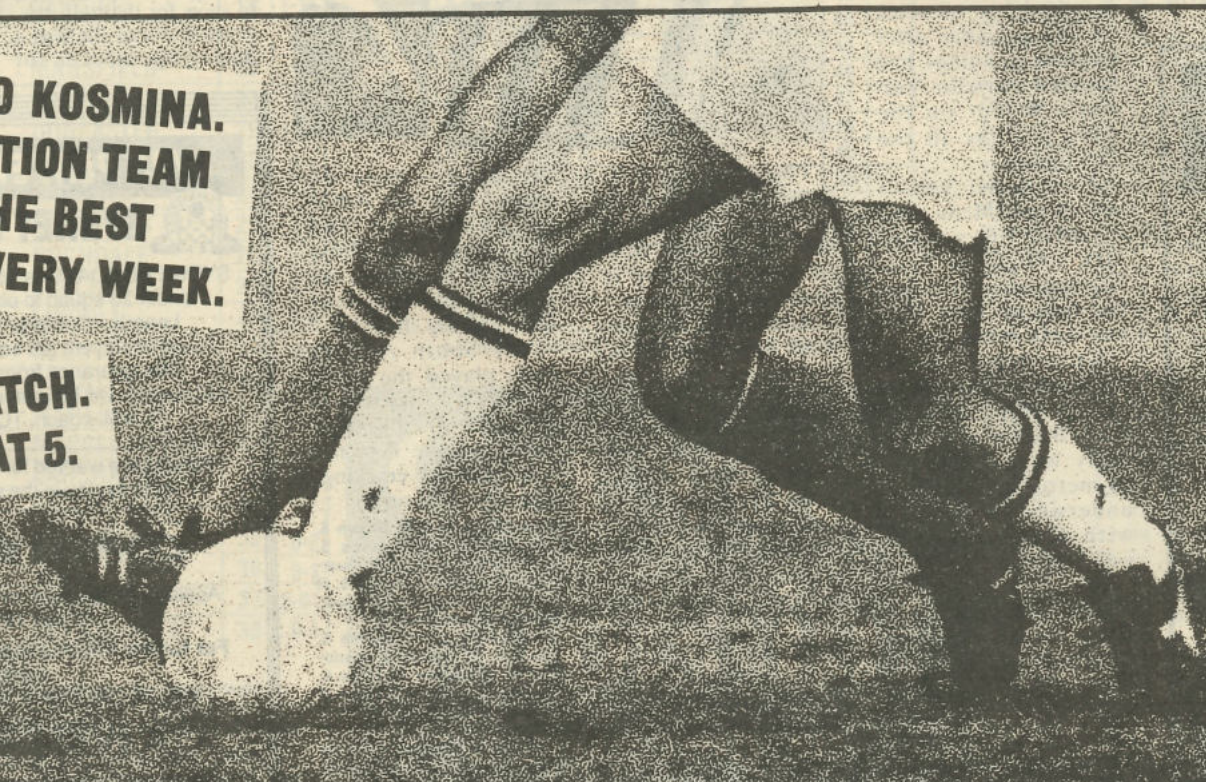
He said: "I would welcome Craig Johnston's involvement with the ASF at an appropriate level, but to consider him for that (the under 20 coaching) position would be premature at this stage of Craig's career."

"In the past, Craig has been approached without success by Sir Arthur George and Frank Arok on a number of occasions for an involvement with Australian soccer."

"To date, his contribution has been zero."

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AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY — MARCH 14, 1990

Melbourne Croatia storm home

BY GREG BLAKE

THE usual measure of a genuine championship campaigner is to be found in matches such as the one Melbourne Croatia faced at home against gritty mid-table outfit Wollongong last Sunday.

For sides in the hunt for the crucial finals double-chance, as Croatia certainly is, these become must-win games with fixtures against the 'gun' teams of the competition still to be faced.

That the Melbourne side played poorly and still trounced the Wolves 3-0 on Sunday is a fair indication that Croatia might finally have found a degree of maturity it lacked when it went hell-for-leather for the title last year only to fail when it counted.

Wollongong player-coach David Ratcliffe deserved better than to celebrate his 300th NSL appearance in a team which wilted and buckled in a match it might have made a contest of.

Instead Croatia, despite the absence of skipper Josip Biskic, John Markovski and Joe Duzel, was able to coast to its most convincing home win of the season.

Playing with the advantage of what started as a howling gale, Croatia went at the visiting team with a full head of steam.

Less than four minutes in Croatia went ahead with a goal which was simplicity itself as Zeljko Adzic drifted from the right and Ivan Kelic leaped to glide his header just wide of George Bouhoutis, who could only fingertip the ball as it rolled over the line.

Adzic tormented the home crowd with a Jekyll and Hyde display as he ran the show and created so much and yet frustrated everyone with a display of inept



Bill Londos, the Blacktown 'keeper, was a busy man against South Melbourne last Saturday. He conceded three goals in the heat — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

finishing as he squandered three first half chances, the third going close enough to rattle the woodwork.

With chunky David Skeen still prepared to fight out the game Wollongong was always going to be a chance and it was his drive from midfield which suggested a second half comeback was in the offing.

Despite finding a little space and time against mid-week cup weary Croatia, Wollongong spoiled it for themselves with an abysmal display of passing to its front men.

The Wolves' best chance came from Zivko Hristovski's 20-metre drive which forced a diving first-time stop from David Miller.

In the final quarter hour Croatia, which had looked only marginally better than its opponent since half-time, put its foot on the pedal and cruised away.

Francis Awaritefe, after robbing Jock Morlando just inside the half-line, earned Croatia's second goal as his charging run was bought to a halt by Ray Vlietstra's shoulder charge and Adzic put away the resultant penalty in the 76th minute.

Three minutes later Branko Milosevic made it 3-0 after taking a pass from Adzic and dummieing the goalkeeper before slotting the shot away from close range.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller 7, Marth 7, Donnelly 7, Davidson 7, Hannah 7, Caleta 5 (Selemidis 74), Milosevic 6, Adzic 7, Talajic 5, Kelic 5 (Bacak 84m), Awaritefe 6.

WOLLONGONG: Bouhoutis, 5 Vlietstra 6, Brodnik 5, Morlando 5, Ratcliffe 5, Lloyd 4 (Versi 64m), Skeen 7, Hristovski 6, Murphy 5, Easthorpe 5, McFadden 5.

SCORERS: Kelic 3m, Adzic pen, 76m, Milosevic 79m for Melbourne Croatia.

YELLOW CARDS: Hannah 59m for Melbourne Croatia; Morlando 41m for Wollongong.

REFEREE: T McRoe 6.

CROWD: 1850.

Saints livid over winning Hellas goal

BY ALAN CLARK

STRIKER Peter Ranklin threw Hellas a QNSL lifeline on Sunday with the goal just after the interval which pipped St George at Hindmarsh.

Hellas players and fans whooped with delight over the score while the St George players and bench were livid.

They claimed Hellas striker Steve Politis had handled Rankin's shot on its way into the net. Young Politis later admitted the ball hit his hand but referee John Fraser said the goal stood and that was the end of the argument.

Hellas battled well for this crumb of cheer.

Goalkeeper Chris Tsoleridis, the club's find of the season, was immense. He had at least three world-class saves and commanded his area with authority.

Central defender Robbie Slager returned



Adelaide Hellas captain Albie Kidd.

to his towering best and Nick Mousoulis was the perfect foil.

Brenton Hiern dazzled as an attacking full-back and explosive Raymond Blair led the Saints defence a merry dance with his pace and running power.

Teenage striker Politis also turned in his best display so far for Hellas.

St George confounded critics by refusing to play a second-fiddle supporting role to Hellas.

Skipper Andy Koczka showed their intentions in just two minutes with an inspired run that opened up the Hellas defence but ended with the first of many good Tsoleridis saves.

Tsoleridis, some stout defending and ill fortune were responsible for St George having nothing to show for their efforts.

Little Zoran Ilic was a damaging attacker for

Saints but could not finish off his devastating runs for the touches that matter.

Hellas, too, was busy with Blair buzzing.

Saints keeper John Filan reaffirmed his promise in the second half with a memorable double-save from first Blair and then Hellas skipper Alby Kidd.

In the end, Rankin's controversial goal separated the sides but whether it is enough to save Hellas — only time will tell.

ADELAIDE HELLAS: Tsoleridis 8, Hiern 7, Mills 6, Mousoulis 7, Slager 7, Miranda 5, Brazzale 6, Kidd 6, Politis 6, Rankin 6, Blair 7.

ST GEORGE: Filan 7, Green 5, Dean 6, Moffitt 7, Koczka 6, O'Shea 6, Harper 6, Krslovic 6, Bingley 5, (Spanoudakis 81m), Ilic 7, Knight 5 (Kakakios 54m).

SCORER: Rankin 48m for Hellas.

YELLOW CARDS: Knight 15 seconds, Harper 56m, Dean 77m for St George.

CROWD: 4000 (est).

REFEREE: J Fraser 5.

A sorry tale of missed penalties

BY LOU GAUTIER



Neville Flounders

TWO first half penalties squandered by Adelaide City salvaged a point for Apia Leichhardt at Lambert Park last Sunday.

Adelaide City had to settle for a 0-0 draw in a match they should have wrapped up after 36 minutes.

First Adrian Santrac smashed his spotkick on the crossbar after Graham Jennings had handled Aurelio Vidmar's header on the Apia goalline in the 25th minute.

Then in the 36th, it was Sergio Melta who directed his penalty kick straight at Tony Pezzano after Jennings had brought Tony Vidmar down in the box.

Apia had enjoyed the early running and in the third minute Rod Brown was unlucky when his fierce 18-metre shot hit the underside of the bar with Robert Zabica well beaten.

The searing heat took its toll on the teams in the second half when the pace slackened considerably, but there was enough goalmouth and end to end action to keep the small crowd on its toes.

The sapping heat, however, did get to the players and no less than seven were handed yellow cards by referee Richard Lorenc.

Adelaide City came close to scoring in the 57th minute when Melta hit the Apia crossbar with a stinging 30-metre drive, but Apia had the better of play in the second period.

Already minus five first team regulars, the home side suffered another blow when Rod Brown had to leave the field with a recurring knee injury in the 69th minute, but they still peppered the City goal.

They appeared certain to miraculously win the game 10 minutes from time when Peter Murray was in

the clear, a mere six metres from the AdCity goal, but the youngster somehow managed to balloon his shot as the Apia fans were already cheering.

The South Australians played the more fluent football throughout, but full marks for not cracking under the pressure.

APIA: Pezzano 6, M Brown 6, Jennings 5, Stankovics 5, Halliday 6, Clinch 6, McQuarrie 5 (Okon 66m), Murray 5, R Brown 6 (Theodorakopoulos), Bundalo 6, van Blerk 6.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica 6, Tobin 6, T Vidmar 6, Ivanovich 6, Flounders 6, Melta 6, Santrac 5, Veart 6, Mullen 5 (Shillabeer 83m), Maxwell 5, A Vidmar 6.

YELLOW CARDS: Bundalo 23m, Jennings 25m, Stankovics 34m for Apia; Veart 15m, Ivanovich 34m, Melta 72m, Santrac 78m for Adelaide City.

REFEREE: R Lorenc 5.

CROWD: 1411.

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U/23 PLAYERS WANTED



SYDNEY CROATIA is now inviting players for its Under 23 squad to play in the NSW State League "Conference B" competition. Talented players are sought, and must have a free clearance from their current club. All trainings will be under the guidance of senior NSL coach, TONY VRZINA.

Players are wanted for the Club's Under 19s team to play in the same competition

COACH WANTED

Applications are now invited for the position of Under 19 Coach.

For further information to the above, please contact

THE SECRETARY, SYDNEY CROATIA
☎ (02) 623 6230

Coaches' applications to be forwarded to:
SYDNEY CROATIA F.C.
455 Edensor Road, EDENSOR PARK.
NSW 2176.

SOCCER POOLS



THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 10/3/90 — WEEK 241

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST WEEK 242 SAT 17 MARCH

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	CHARLTON	NOTTINGHAM F.	1
	COVENTRY	SHEFF. WED.	2
	EVERTON	CRYSTAL P.	3
	LUTON	MAN. CITY	4
	NORWICH	MILLWALL	5
	Q.P.R.	TOTTENHAM	6
	WIMBLEDON	SOUTHAMPTON	7
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	BARNLEY	OLDHAM	8
	BOURNEMOUTH	SUNDERLAND	9
	BRIGHTON	BRADFORD C.	10
	LEEDS	WEST HAM	11
	LEICESTER	PORT VALE	12
	MIDDLESBRO	BLACKBURN	13
	NEWCASTLE	IPSWICH	14
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	PORTSMOUTH	OXFORD UTD.	15
	SHEFF. UTD.	WOLVES	16
	STOKE	PLYMOUTH	17
	SWINDON	HULL	18
	WEST BROM.	WATFORD	19
	BIRMINGHAM	ROTHERHAM	20
	BRISTOL C.	BRENTFORD	21
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	BURY	CHESTER	22
	CARDIFF	HUDDERSFIELD	23
	CREWE	SWANSEA	24
	FULHAM	BRISTOL R.	25
	LEYTON O.	TRANMERE	26
	MANSFIELD	SHREWSBURY	27
	NOTTS C.	WALSALL	28
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	PRESTON	NORTHAMPTON	29
	READING	BLACKPOOL	30
	BURNLEY	MAIDSTONE	31
	COLCHESTER	ALDERSHOT	32
	DONCASTER	TORQUAY	33
	EXETER	PETERBORO	34
	HEREFORD	STOCKPORT	35
ENGLISH DIVISION 6	LINCOLN	CHESTERFIELD	36
	ROCHDALE	GRIMSBY	37
	SCARBORO	SOUTHEND	38
	SCUNTHORPE	HARTLEPOOL	39
	WREXHAM	CARLISLE	40
	FISHER ATH.	ALTRINCHAM	41
	FLEETWOOD	FRICKLEY A.	42
H.F.S. LOANS	GOOLE	BANGOR	43
	MORECAMBE	MATLOCK	44
	RHYL	MOSSLEY	45
	S. LIVERPOOL	MARINE	46
	ALVECHURCH	GOSPORT	47
	ATHERSTONE	GRAVESEND	48
	BURTON A.	ASHFORD	49
BEAZER HOMES	DARTFORD	WATERLOO	50
	DORCHESTER	BROMSGROVE	51
	RUGBY	GLOUCESTER	52
	BARKING	BASINGSTOKE	53
	BROMLEY	BOGNOR R.	54
	HAYES	STAINES	55
	VAUXHALL LGE.	PREMIER DIV.	

* G.M. VAUXHALL LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED										NO. OF WEEKS SINCE EACH NUMBER OCCURRED									
1	25	2	29	3	38	4	14	5	29	6	44	7	34	8	44	9	9	10	11
10	42	11	54	12	48	13	51	14	45	15	46	16	49	17	43	18	29	1	—
19	17	20	44	21	35	22	50	23	45	24	49	25	50	26	46	27	3	—	—
28	25	29	27	30	28	31	29	30	31	32	30	31	32	33	30	31	32	33	34
35	45	36	52	37	60	38	53	39	68	40	50	41	51	42	17	1	4	5	6
43	33	49	63	55	64	57	58	59	50	35	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42

Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF WEEK 241 SAT 10 MARCH, 1990

Total Prize Pool is \$226,020.24
Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order): 2, 11, 12, 18, 22, 31.
Supplementary Number: 37

Division 1:
The Prize Pool is \$146,907.79
1 provisional winner from Victoria.

Division 2:
The Prize Pool is \$4,520.40
NO WINNERS and this Pool is allocated to Division 3.

Division 3:
The Prize Pool is \$18,081.20
68 winners of \$265.90ea

Division 4:
The Prize Pool is \$33,944.85
2,817 winners of \$12.05ea

Division 5:
The Prize Pool is \$27,086.40
2,508 winners of \$10.80ea

MATCH RESULTS

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	CHELSEA	NORWICH	1	0-0
	MAN. CITY	ARSENAL	2	1-1*
	NOTTINGHAM F.	COVENTRY	3	2-4
	TOTTENHAM	CHARLTON	4	3-0
	BLACKBURN	WEST BROM.	5	2-1
	BRADFORD C.	STOKE	6	1-0
	HULL	MIDDLESBRO	7	0-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	IPSWICH	BRIGHTON	8	2-1
	OXFORD UTD.	LEEDS	9	2-4
	PLYMOUTH	SWINDON	10	0-3
	PORT VALE	BOURNEMOUTH	11	1-1*
	SUNDERLAND	LEICESTER	12	2-2*
	WATFORD	NEWCASTLE	13	0-0
	WEST HAM	PORTSMOUTH	14	2-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	BOLTON	NOTTS C.	15	3-0
	BRENTFORD	CREWE	16	0-2
	HUDDERSFIELD	FULHAM	17	0-1
	NORTHAMPTON	CARDIFF	18	1-1*
	ROTHERHAM	BURY	19	1-3
	SWANSEA	MANSFIELD	20	1-0
	WALSALL	BIRMINGHAM	21	0-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	ALDERSHOT	DONCASTER	22	1-1*
	CHESTERFIELD	HEREFORD	23	2-1
	GRIMSBY	EXETER	24	1-0
	HALIFAX	SCARBORO	25	1-2
	HARTLEPOOL	ROCHDALE	26	2-1
	MAIDSTONE	COLCHESTER	27	4-1
	PETERBORO	LINCOLN	28	0-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	TORQUAY	SCUNTHORPE	29	0-3
	YORK	BURNLEY	30	1-3
	BARROW	FISHER ATH.	31	1-1*
	CHELTENHAM	MACCLESFIELD	32	1-2
	BARKING	CARSHALTON	33	2-1
	BISHOPS S.	WOKINGHAM	34	1-2
	DULWICH	AYLESBURY	35	0-2
VAUXHALL LGE. PREMIER DIV.	GRAYS	KINGSTONIAN	36	3-1
	HAYES	DAGENHAM	37	0-0*
	MARLOW	LEYTON W'TE	38	0-1

*Winning match numbers and supplementary number.

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 00555 0787 Australia Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520;
Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521;
Perth (09) 11520.

Results are available from 8pm. Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

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FA CUP, q-f: Cambridge 0 Plymouth 32 9 7 16 42 50 34
Crystal Palace 1. Bradford 34 7 12 15 35 51 33
Rd 5: Oldham 2 Everton 1 — after extra time (90 mins: 1-1).
DIV 1: Aston Villa 2 Luton 0. Stoke 34 5 13 16 26 50 28

Cheslea 0 Norwich 0. Manchester City 1 Arsenal 1. Nottingham Forest 2 Coventry 4. Southampton 2 Derby 1. Tottenham 3 Charlton 0.

DIV 2: Blackburn 2 West Bromwich 1. Bradford 1 Stoke 0. Hull 0 Middlesbrough 0. Ipswich 2 Brighton 1. Oxford 2 Leeds 4. Plymouth 0 Swindon 3. Port Vale 1 Bournemouth 1. Sunderland 2 Leicester 2. Watford 0 Newcastle 0. West Ham 2 Portsmouth 1. Wolverhampton 1 Barnsley 1.

DIV 3: Blackpool 2 Preston 2. Bolton 3 Notts County 0. Brentford 0 Crewe 2. Huddersfield 0 Fulham 1. Northampton 1. Cardiff 1. Rotherham 1. Bury 3. Shrewsbury 0 Bristol City 1. Swansea 1 Mansfield 0. Walsall 0. Birmingham 1. Played Friday: Chester 1 Reading 1. Tranmere 2 Wigan 0.

DIV 4: Aldershot 1 Doncaster 1. Chesterfield 2. Hereford 1. Grimsby 1 Exeter 0. Halifax 1. Scarborough 2. Hartlepool 2. Rochdale 1. Maidstone 4. Colchester 1. Torquay 0. Scunthorpe 3. York 1. Burnley 3. Played Friday: Southend 2. Gillingham 0. Stockport 0. Wrexham 2.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIV: Celtic 1 Hearts 1. Dundee 1 Dunfermline 0. Hibernian 3. Aberdeen 2. Motherwell 0. Dundee United 1.

DIV 1: Albion 2 St Johnstone 5. Forfar 2. Airdrieonians 3. Raith 2. Morton 1.

DIV 2: Berwick 2 East Fife 0. Kilmarnock 3. Queen's Park 0. Montrose 1. Stenhousemuir 1. Queen of The South 2. Brechin 2.

IRISH CUP, q-f: Banbridge 0 Coleraine 1. Larne 1. Linfield 2. Newry 2. Glentoran 3. Portadown 2. Bangor 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE
Aston Villa 28 17 4 7 45 26 55
Liverpool 27 15 8 4 51 26 53
Arsenal 28 14 5 9 42 28 47
Notts Fst 28 12 7 9 41 32 43
Chelsea 29 11 10 8 45 41 43
Coventry 28 13 4 11 32 37 43
Southampton 28 11 9 8 55 47 42
Tottenham 29 12 6 11 42 36 42
Norwich 28 10 9 9 30 31 39
Derby 27 11 5 11 34 25 38
Wimbledon 27 9 11 7 34 29 38
Everton 26 11 5 10 35 34 38
QPR 26 9 9 8 30 29 36
Sheff Wed 29 8 9 12 24 37 33
Crystal Pal 27 9 6 12 32 51 33
Man Utd 27 8 7 12 34 37 31
Luton 29 6 11 12 32 45 29
Man City 28 7 8 13 29 43 29
Millwall 28 5 9 14 33 48 24
Charlton 29 5 8 16 23 41 23

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO
Leeds 34 18 10 6 60 39 64
Swindon 34 17 9 8 65 44 60
Sheff Utd 31 16 11 4 49 32 59
Newcastle 33 14 12 7 59 40 54
Wolves 34 14 11 9 54 43 53
Oldham 31 13 12 6 47 36 51
Blackburn 33 12 14 7 58 49 50
Sunderland 33 12 13 8 51 50 49
Ipswich 32 12 11 9 56 47 47
West Ham 32 12 10 10 47 39 46
Port Vale 34 11 13 10 44 39 46
Oxford 33 13 7 13 46 45 46
Watford 33 11 10 12 40 39 43
Bournemouth 34 11 10 13 48 53 43
Leicester 33 11 10 12 46 52 43
Brighton 34 11 6 17 41 49 39
Portsmouth 34 8 13 13 43 51 37
WBA 33 8 12 13 50 53 36
Hull 33 7 14 12 37 47 35
Middlesbro 34 9 8 17 38 49 35

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIV
Rangers 28 16 8 4 39 16 40
Aberdeen 29 13 8 8 47 30 34
Hearts 29 13 8 8 48 32 34
Celtic 29 10 11 8 34 25 31
Dundee Utd 29 9 11 9 32 34 29
Motherwell 29 9 10 10 37 38 28
Hibernian 29 10 8 11 29 35 28
Dunfermlin 29 9 6 14 31 43 24
St Mirren 28 8 6 14 22 43 22
Dundee 29 4 10 15 34 57 18

DIVISION ONE
Airdrie 31 21 6 4 64 30 48
St Johnst 31 19 7 5 62 32 45
Hamilton 29 11 11 7 41 37 33
Clydebank 30 12 8 10 58 49 32
Falkirk 30 11 10 9 48 40 32
Raith 30 12 7 11 43 43 31
Ayr 30 10 10 10 35 48 30
Partick 30 9 11 10 49 42 29
Mdwbnk 30 10 9 11 32 36 29
Morton 31 6 15 10 29 37 27
Clyde 28 7 9 12 27 35 23
Alloa 29 6 8 15 34 49 20
Forfar 31 5 12 14 38 56 20
Albion 29 5 9 15 33 56 19

Note: Forfar deducted two points for fielding ineligible player.

For Past Results and Historical Data on The Pools, write to: T.M.S. P.O. Box 2937 DD GPO Melbourne 3001. Or Phone: (03) 328 3345.

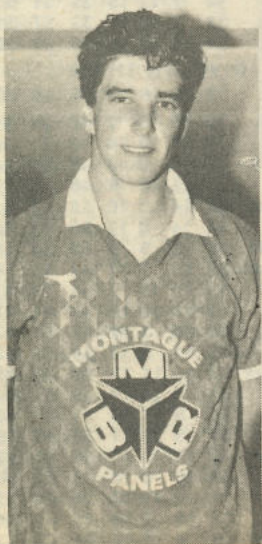
NSL CUP

South Melbourne romp

BY GREG BLAKE

WHAT was eventually a playful romp into the NSL Cup semi-finals for South Melbourne last Wednesday night turned from triumph to disaster just before half-time.

South, on its way to a 5-1 drubbing of an understrength Blacktown team in a cup second round tie, lost top scorer Kimon Taliadoros for at least two matches after he was sent off following an off the ball incident with Blacktown's Peter Bennett.



KIM TALIAĐOROS — sent off.

Referee John Fraser had no hesitation sending the fiery Taliadoros from the field in the 44th minute of the cup tie after the clash which left Bennett sprawled on the ground and in need of medical attention to his face.

Taliadoros is set to miss the return league game against Blacktown as well as South Melbourne's crucial home meeting with top side Marconi.

Blacktown, with a

number of its first teamers rested for the cup match, gave Hellas little opposition and the small band of South Melbourne fans enjoyed the club's best goal haul of the season.

Angie Postecoglou and Paul Trimboli put Hellas ahead 2-0 at half time with Trimboli making it 3-0 with the best goal of the game, a shot on the turn after receiving from Joe Palatsides, to make it 3-0.

Paul Wade added another and young substitute Michael Michalakopoulos scored his first goal for the club after Darren Northam's consolation goal for the Demons.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: MacLaren, Healy, Postecoglou, Blair, Durakovic, Wade, Taliadoros (sent off 44m), Palatsides (Michalakopoulos 70m), Wright (Mori 70m), Tsolakis.

BLACKTOWN: Mautone, Murphy (Jee 72m), Northam, Longo, Langan, Comerford, Gibson, Bennett, McKinna, McCardle, Connelly.

REFEREE: J. Fraser.

CROWD: 1413.

NSL CUP

Ad City in semis

BY ALAN CLARK

ADELAIDE City survived a first-half savaging from Melbourne Croatia to scamper into the NSL Cup semi-finals last Thursday at Hindmarsh.

With brilliant Branko Milosevic pulling the strings, Croatia dazzled in the opening half but only had one goal to show for their onslaught.

That came in 11 minutes when Ivan Kelic took advantage of an uncharacteristic Robert Zabica fumble to shoot home.

Croatia turned on the style but could not turn the screw where it counts — on the scoreboard.

City, despite a couple of early chances, were rarely sighted in attack in the first half.

Their defence, too, looked shaky as the pace and power of quick-breaking Croatia stunned home fans.

But the turning point probably came just five minutes into the second

half after City had been given a dressing down by coach Zoran Matic.

Kelic robbed Milan Ivanovich on the half-way line and headed towards the box.

He clumsily rounded Zabica but stumbled and lost composure, momentum and his footing. He regained control but by the time he could get in a shot, Paul Shillabeer was back on the line to clear.

City then took control.

With Sergio Melta back to his surging best and Adrian Santrac coolly orchestrating deeply in midfield, City went on the rampage and was rewarded in 58 minutes.

Subdued Joe Mullen scampered down the left and sent over a centimetre-perfect cross that exciting Aurelio Vidmar steered home with his head.

Mullen and Vidmar again were in the build-up in 68 minutes to set up a chance for Stevie

A stirring fightback which saw Marconi come back from two goals down inside the first 20 minutes to snatch a thrilling 3-2 victory over St George in a deferred match at Bossley Park last Wednesday night clearly showed the sort of character needed to win championships.

Big striker Tony Krslovic gave the gallant Saints a dream start, first curling his well-struck freekick

around the wall into the top corner after 14 minutes, then was on the spot six minutes later to pick up a Mathew Bingley flick header, waltz around Gary van Egmond and calmly drill his shot past Bobby Catlin.

But taking such a commanding lead so early against a side like Marconi only served to spur the champions on to greater heights as they stepped up a gear and attacked their opponents with such ferocity that it was only a matter of time before the breakthrough arrived.

Young goalkeeper John Filan was continuously forced to show why he's rated one of the best prospects in the country and somehow managed to hold Marconi back until a minute before half-time.

Defender Craig Moffitt brought down van Egmond with an awkward challenge in the box and Tommy McCulloch made no mistake from the spot to set up a pulsating second period.

The remainder of the game became mostly a matter of Filan against Marconi, with the Saints content to rely on the occasional breakaway. From one such counter-attack in the 59th minute, Catlin saved the champions from going further behind by diving bravely at the feet of Krslovic, possibly providing the turning point of the match.

Matteo Colucci and young Paul Okon were setting up one fierce attack after another and the pressure finally told after 72 minutes with a goalmouth scramble which gave McCulloch a golden chance to equalise from the penalty spot but this time he sent his attempt soaring over the crossbar.



GERRY GOMEZ — scored a crucial goal.

St George managed to hang on to their slim lead for only three more minutes as van Egmond ghosted into the box and got his head to a Peter Katholos free kick to send the match into a frantic last quarter of an hour.

With time fast running out, Marconi conjured up the winner in the 85th minute after Katholos and Fred de Jong combined to send van Egmond racing to the byeline and his low cross to the near post was struck home by a jubilant Gerry Gomez.

The remarkable comeback was complete but the Saints would not lie down and Krslovic was

desperately unlucky not to complete his hat-trick and salvage his side a valuable point when he sent his shot scraping against the upright in the dying seconds.

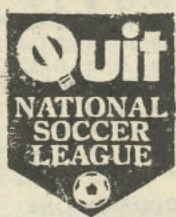
MARCONI: Catlin 7, van Egmond 8, De Marigny 7, Calderan 6, Wheatley 6, Gomez 6, McCulloch 7, Okon 7 (Katholos 70m), de Jong 6, Colucci 7 (Glavovic 85m), Lowe 6.

ST GEORGE: Filan 8, Green 6, Dean 6, Moffitt 6, Koczka 6, O'Shea 6, Harper 6, Krslovic 7, Bingley 5, Kakakios 5 (Knight 79m), Spasoudakis 5 (Hickman 50m).

SCORERS: McCulloch (pen) 44m, Van Egmond 75m, Gomez 85m for Marconi; Krslovic 14 and 20m for St George.

YELLOW CARDS: Gomez 14m for Marconi; Green 30m, Harper 55 for St George. REFEREE: J. Reeves 7. CROWD: 2366.

Weekend fixtures



* Check daily newspapers for possible changes to kickoff times

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE GAMES

ROUND 21

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

MELITA EAGLES v MELBOURNE CROATIA

Melita Stadium 7pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

SYDNEY CROATIA v BLACKTOWN CITY

Croatian Sp Centre 2.30pm

SOUTH MELBOURNE v MARCONI

Middle Park 2.30pm

ST GEORGE v ARIA LEICHHARDT

St George Stadium 2.30pm

SUNSHINE GC v SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Skinner Reserve 2.30pm

ADELAIDE CITY v PRESTON MAKEDONIA

Hindmarsh Stadium TBA

WOLLONGONG CITY v ADELAIDE HELLAS

Brandon Park TBA

Deferred match

Stirring Marconi comeback

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

BANKSTOWN STATE LEAGUE

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AUSTRALIAN

SOCCER

WEEKLY

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Sweden has the pedigree

SWEDEN have enjoyed enough past glories in the World Cup to justify fully their ambitious dreams for this year's finals in Italy.

The Swedes were runners-up in the 1958 World Cup on home soil, third in 1950 in Brazil, fourth in 1938 in France and quarter-finalists in both 1934 and 1974.

And it is this past record of success which manager Olle Nordin draws on to defy gloomy predictions of Sweden travelling to Italy as nothing more than also-rans.

Under the moustachied former international midfielder, the Swedes have exceeded all expectations by winning their qualifying group, which included England, to clinch their place in the finals for the first time since 1978.

"When you've made it to the World Cup, anything can happen," said Nordin.

"Can we reach the final? My honest answer is — yes, why not?"

In the opening round, Sweden will be in group C and will play Brazil in Turin on June 10 and Scotland and Costa Rica in Genoa on June 16 and 20 respectively.

"It's a good draw. We're in northern Italy where the climate suits us well. I would be very disappointed if we didn't reach the last 16," said Nordin.

Sweden's opening match against Brazil will evoke bitter-sweet memories of the earlier World Cup clashes — a 4-2 loss in the match for third place in 1938, a 7-1 hammering in a 1950 semi-final and a 5-2 defeat in the 1958 final which elevated Pele, then 17, to superstar status.

There was also a 1-1 draw in 1978 in Argenti-



GLEN HYSEN: one of Sweden's main assets in Italy this year.

na, when Nordin himself was in the World Cup squad, a 3-3 draw in a 1983 friendly and a 2-1 victory last year.

With the exception of IFK Göteborg goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli, most of Sweden's top players are foreign-based professionals such as Liverpool libero Glen Hysen, Ajax defender Peter Larsson, Benfica playmaker Jonas Thern and the swift Cannes striker Johnny Ekstrom.

"It is fortunate to meet Brazil early in the tournament when they are more cautious. With some luck we should bring home one point," said Hysen.

"The Scots are not as good as they have been and they won't be able

to run so much in the Italian heat. It is also an advantage to meet Costa Rica in the last match when they're exhausted and should be easier to tame," he said.

Sweden have lost their last three games against Scotland and have never previously played Costa Rica.

During Nordin's four years in charge, he has transformed Sweden from a cautious team which stumbled on the run-in towards the 1982 and 1986 finals to a confident outfit which has looked best when it really counted.

There have been only six defeats under Nordin and his record includes victory in a 1988 four-nation tournament in West Berlin.

JOHNNY WARREN

HAS HIS SAY



Improvements under consideration

St George Stadium revamp

IF proposals, currently before Rockdale Council, are approved later this month, St George Stadium will become one of the showpieces of Australian soccer.

Developments already approved include a 1400 car parking area between the northern end of the stadium and the Mascot Airport runway.

The fully bitumened car park will have access to West Botany Street, significantly easing traffic congestion prior to and after matches.

The car park is expected to be completed within four months and work has already started on filling the massive area.

The second stage of development will include building administration offices and VIP area around the electronic scoreboard area, a bistro area and upgrading of the VIP areas at the back of the current grandstand.

Most importantly three mini stadia will provide alternative playing areas to the main stadium suitable

Watch next week's ASW for a blueprint of the development plan to St George Stadium.



Saints captain Andy Koczka leads his team on to the St George Stadium pitch. The ground and surrounding area will get a big facelift soon, making it one of the very top soccer venues in Australia.

for State League, NSL Youth League and other "minor" matches.

All grounds will be banked to provide grassed viewing areas and the mini stadia will

be complete with their own turnstile areas, dressing rooms, scoreboard etc.

Also part of these improvements will be the banking of the

main stadium grassed areas, increasing the capacity of the main stadium to 20,000 fans.

The entire complex is planned to be made more secure, and in an environmental sense

the whole complex will meet with 21st century demands.

Substantial landscaping of the entire area, together with a massive tree planting programme, will make the St George Stadium complex one of which all football fans will be proud.

Who's for the five — and relegation ...

AT the time of writing seven rounds remain in the QUIT NSL, plus a deferred game between Marconi and St George.

Which five teams will contest the national finals and which two will be relegated is all a matter of opinion and in this week's ASW we give you the chance to work out your viewpoint

with our detailed remaining match programme.

Goal difference may well be a deciding factor in the final five and relegation stakes and for that reason we have included it in our table.

I'll take the easy way out by saying the final five will not change dramatically from its current order and similarly at the bottom of the table.

TEAM	POINTS G/F	REMAINING GAMES							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1. MARCONI	26	+21 MEL (H)	SM (A)	SCR (H)	SUN (A)	AC (H)	A (A)	P (H)	
2. MELB CROATIA	24	+16 W (H)	MEL (A)	SM (H)	SCR (A)	SUN (H)	AC (A)	A (H)	
3. ADELAIDE CITY	24	+12 A (A)	P (H)	SO (A)	B (H)	MAR (A)	MCR (H)	AH (A)	
4. APIA LEICH	24	+10 AC (H)	SG (A)	P (A)	SG (H)	B (A)	MAR (H)	MCR (A)	
5. STH MELBOURNE	24	+9 B (A)	MAR (H)	MCR (A)	AH (H)	W (A)	MEL (H)	SG (A)	
6. SYDNEY OLYMPIC	22	+12 SCR (H)	SUN (A)	AC (H)	A (A)	P (H)	SG (H)	B (A)	
7. SYDNEY CROATIA	19	-1 SO (A)	B (H)	MAR (A)	MCR (H)	AH (A)	W (H)	MEL (A)	
8. PRESTON	18	-3 SUN (H)	AC (A)	A (H)	SG (A)	SO (A)	B (H)	MAR (A)	
9. MELITA	18	-3 MAR (A)	MCR (H)	AH (A)	W (H)	SG (H)	SM (A)	SCR (H)	
10. SUNSHINE	16	-9 P (A)	SO (H)	B (A)	MAR (H)	MCR (A)	AH (H)	W (A)	
11. WOLLONGONG	16	-12 MCR (A)	AH (H)	SG (H)	MEL (A)	SM (H)	SCR (A)	SUN (H)	
12. ST GEORGE	14	-9 AH (A)	A (H)	W (A)	P (H)	MEL (A)	SO (A)	SM (H)	
13. AD HELLAS	10	-24 SG (H)	W (A)	MEL (H)	SM (A)	SCR (H)	SUN (A)	AC (H)	
14. BLACKTOWN	9	-18 SM (H)	SCR (A)	SUN (H)	AC (A)	A (H)	P (A)	SO (H)	



West German players celebrate their victory in last year's European Women's Championship. They will be one of the teams to beat in the inaugural Women's World Cup in China next year. To qualify Australia must eliminate their old nemesis, New Zealand — a very tough assignment indeed.

Switch to straight NSW League vital

BY ALEX VESIC

A majority of NSW State League clubs are set to challenge the NSW Soccer Federation board of directors following widespread dissatisfaction over the inclusion of the NSL under 23 teams in the 1990 draw.

Last year the State League clubs agreed to allow the Federation to examine the possibility of including the NSL teams in its 1990 competition.

However, the proposal by the Federation was supposed to be finalised at least before February 1.

As its meeting of two weeks ago the board presented the draw for the 1990 season to the clubs, which saw the League divided into two groups of nine teams allowing for a basic 16-game season!

The clubs voted and came up with eight votes against the prop-

osed draw, three (Sutherland, Freshwater and Canterbury) going along with it, with one absentee (Inter Monaro).

However, their vote fell on deaf ears.

A number of clubs, at present not wishing to be named, have expressed deep resentment at the treatment they received.

At least one club has budgeted for expenditure of \$250,000 for 1990. Four others appear to be close to spending \$200,000 each for the season.

"I am left with eight home games this season, including three against Youth NSL sides. They are going to bring no more than two cats and three dogs to the game."

"I have just two clubs in the group that can draw crowds, which leaves me to find 100,000 dollars at least in two home matches."

"This is an incredible

decision taken by the board of directors and I am going to fight it, otherwise my club is going to go under..." said one of the most concerned club presidents.

Others sounded off in the very same fashion.

Of those who voted with the Federation, at least one club was quite happy to go along with the rest as long as they 'provide a united front'.

"They talk a lot about this and that, but come meeting time they appear to be lost," said the club official.

The saga of the NSW Soccer Federation State League started to unfold three years ago when a plan was unveiled by the Federation officials.

"Shape up or ship out," was the loud and clear message, pointing out to many deficiencies existing within the State League club set-up.

A number of clubs had problems lifting

their standards, ground facilities as well as spectator comfort being the utmost in the minds of those who demanded improvement.

Central Coast, Orange, Bathurst and some other country towns came into serious consideration as future State League clubs, should they prove to offer better facilities than some clubs already in the State League.

That was progressive and I was the first to applaud the move.

However, out of the blue came the idea of using NSL Youth League sides to 'bolster' the State League ranks.

This would have to be no more than a cruel joke that should be quickly scrapped to allow the State League to continue in dignity, and not be relegated to the standard of the inter-suburban competition.



Henjek Mojsa of Polonia about to be tackled by John McKie (No 9) of Avala at Knight Park. Avala won 3-0.

Dazzling Polish Polka

PAVEL Janduda, Lasek Kulwicki and Jarek Nowicki scored a goal apiece and generally mesmerised their opponents as Polonia sauntered past North Shore United 5-1 in their third round encounter at Chopin Park last Saturday.

In fact, Nowicki, the ex-Legia Gdansk star, scored twice and was brought down in the 41st, providing easy pickings for Kulwicki from the resultant penalty kick.

Nowicki was devastating with his footwork and tremendous turn of speed, while his Polonia team-mates were always on the spot to add their own version of the Polish Polka that left North Shore groggy at half-way mark.

David Beamer missed with a header after 14 minutes, but five minutes later Polonia helped its cause with two goals within a minute.

Nowicki easily outpaced the Shore defence with Giallan making an error to provide the star striker with an easy chip to Janduda who slammed his header past Dean Bennell.

Janduda returned the favour with a delightful throughball which eluded Gillan to find

Nowicki in the clear. A strong left foot strike left Bennell helpless yet again.

Mark Pratt provided the cross which left David Beamer with an easy tap-in the 29th then Janduka went down after an unfortunate tangle with Pat Crooks inside the penalty area and Lasek Kulwicki made it 4-0.

North Shore scored a face-saving goal after David Bennett beat the keeper in the 65th allowing Neal Hunter to score an easy goal.

It was a first class show by a number of first class players.



POLONIA: Jenkins (Zic), Chou (Robertson), Thompson, Lasek, Kulwicki, Mojsa (Gomez), Colusso, M. Pratt (Camburn), Beamer, Janduda, Nowicki.
NORTH SHORE UNITED: Bennell, (Thornthorn), Gillan, Gough, Pearce, Crooks, (Roldan), Ferguson, Norman, McCall, Bennett, Bass, Jeffery.

Two more for Gilbert

SCOTT Gilbert scored his second double in as many matches to pave the way for an easy 4-1 win to Sydney Macedonia over Inter Monaro at Knight Park last Saturday afternoon.

Then came an unexpected turn of events in the closing minutes of the first period.

Jani Cakovski, Macedonia's defender, found, Fabian Kadric on the flank. Kadric took on some three defenders before crossing into the penalty area for Gilbert to knock in the first of his two goals, with a delicate header.

Two minutes later, in the 39th, Gilbert Walt-

zed his way past some slack defence to make it 2-0. Then with just three minutes left to play in the half Billy Pilovski threaded his pass for Fabian Kadric to beat three defenders before slotting in number three for Macedonia.

Tony Genovese made it 4-0 after five minutes when he raced across the penalty area and when most anticipated a pass, he unleashed a powerful right foot drive that nested wide of the Inter Monaro keeper.

Vic Fernandez Jr salvaged some pride for the side from Queanbeyan with a free kick in the 89th minute, but it was all too late for the fancied visitors.

Too many blanks for the Berries

CANTERBURY Mar-ricville were totally inept in front of goal and despite some glaring opportunities went down 1-2 to Warringah Freshwater in the third round of the State League Clubs' Cup at Chopin Park last Saturday.

Bernie Godzik provided the first opportunity for his side, sending Nick Oustambasidis racing down the middle.

'Ousta' turned one defender before slamming his shot low and wide of Frank Mikulitic to give Canterbury a 1-0 lead.

With Canterbury showing far more enterprise in the opening half an hour it looked only a matter of time before another goal assured Canterbury of the points.



But with Glen Sterrey tightening reins at the back of Warringah's defence and Enzo Morson, a new acquisition from Apia looking particularly strong, the game was evenly poised soon before half time.

Morson hit a superb drive after just 30 minutes only to see his drive rebound off the crossbar and fall to the feet of Dominic Gian-

none who couldn't find the net from some five metres out.

Giannone provided the cross which was tucked away by Morson in the 40th and the game was wide open yet again.

In the 55th minute an inexplicable error by the Canterbury keeper turned it around.

Robert De Ceglie was wide on the left flank and well away from the penalty area. He

noticed the goalkeeper camping some four or five metres out of goal and coolly chipped the ball into the far corner for the winning goal.

WARRINGAH FRESHWATER: Mikulitic, Sterrey, Glasscock, Etherington, Morson, Oslowski, Grimes, McBreen, Giannone (Lombardi), Masi Gigliotti, De Ceglie (Ruperto).

CANTERBURY: Angelis, Slaveski, Hantzis, Benetis (Divljak), Godzik, Radman, Milosourgis, Papoythis, Kalogeras (Hill), Dounis, Oustambasidis.

LEGACY

still needs

your help

Please send donations to your nearest Legacy office.

TABLES, RESULTS

GROUP A

Avala-Newcastle 1-2; Canterbury-Freshwater 1-2, Polonia-North Shore 5-1.

1. Newcastle	3 3 0 0 9-3 6
2. Avala	3 1 1 1 6-4 3
3. Polonia	3 1 1 1 6-6 3
4. Freshwater	3 1 1 1 4-5 3
5. North Shore	3 1 1 1 3-5 3
6. Canterbury	3 0 1 2 2-7 1

GROUP B:

Canberra Croatia-Sutherland 2-1; Sydney Macedonia-Inter Monaro 4-1; Wollongong Macedonia bye.

1. Canberra Croatia	2 2 0 0 4-1 4
2. Sydney Macedonia	2 1 1 0 6-3 3
3. W'gong Macedonia	2 1 1 0 5-2 3
4. Sutherland	3 0 1 2 2-6 1
5. Inter Monaro	3 0 1 2 2-7 1

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1 ROUND-ROBIN

FOURTH ROUND Saturday, March 17 Group A

Newcastle BHP Austral v North Shore United — Austral Park 4pm

Sunday, March 18

Polonia v Warringah Freshwater — Chopin Park 2.30pm
Avala v Canterbury M'ville — Chopin Park 4.30pm

Group B

Wollongong Macedonia v Canberra Croatia — JJ Kelly 4pm
Sutherland Shire v Sydney Macedonia — Seymour Shaw 4pm
Inter Monaro bye

Reis stars in ACT victory

BY GRAHAM COOK

CANBERRA Croatia striker Alan Reis put his summer wrangles with the NSW Soccer League club behind him by scoring both goals in the 2-1 pre-season tournament win over Sutherland at Deakin Oval on Saturday.

Reis has scored three of Croatia's four goals, two from the penalty spot, but more importantly, is the one man showing attacking flair in a front line which has yet to exhibit any sort of penetration.

Not that Sutherland had many answers in the striking department — Croatia taking the lead in the 44th minute with the only shot on goal from either side in the first half.

Joe Gagetti, who loves to get forward from defence, crossed to Reis who smacked a low, hard drive past Paul Dart from close in.

Danny Serena, making his competition debut for his new club, grew in confidence after a quiet first half. He got a shot in, but well over the bar, then was instrumental in Croatia's second goal in the 69th minute.

A beautiful little dummy sent a defender the wrong way and his flick to Stan Dukic ended with the midfielder getting behind the de-

fence and being brought down just inside the box. For the second consecutive week Reis faced a goalkeeper from the penalty spot, and once again the goalkeeper came off second best.

A slack piece of work in an otherwise tight defence let Sutherland back in the game, with a misunderstanding between Andrew Young and Peter Gunning allowing Ross Tasker to sneak between them and score.

What could have been a difficult last quarter-of-an-hour for Croatia became its best period of the game. Reis won the ball in midfield and looked like he may go all the way before Dart brought off a desperation save.

Then Dart was forced into fast action again when he won a race with Serena for the ball following a defence-splitting pass from Ned Zelic.

And Reis popped back into the picture as he got in a shot under pressure from Geoff Biscaya which Dart saved.

CANBERRA CROATIA: Gunning, Jancevski (Vanzetti 46), Gagetti, Dunn, Young, Kulscar, Marcina (Zelic 62), Dukic, Reis, Serena, Mazis.

SUTHERLAND: Dart, Biscaya, Ensor, Terry (Sellar 59), Edmunds, O'Shea, Christodoulou, Lennie, Kosmina (Bard 61), Sharp (Brandtman 77), Tasker.

Patterson challenges Victorian QNSL clubs

BY GREG BLAKE



KYLE PATTERSON interviewing Marconi goalkeeper Bob Catlin before the Australia v Torpedo Moscow match in Sydney. The popular SBS-TV reporter needs the help of Melbourne's QNSL clubs to boost the sport in Victoria — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

MELBOURNE soccer journalist and SBS TV sports expert Kyle Patterson has issued a challenge to Melbourne's QNSL clubs.

The NSL, in conjunction with the Quit organisation, has commenced a series of promotions on Radio 3UZ Melbourne with the focus on soccer.

Patterson, who will be providing a soccer editorial each week on the Leon Welgard Good Sports Show, has challenged the local clubs to come up with innovative promotions to kick the new soccer segment along.

"The Quit people will be running the promotion from now until the end of the NSL season," Patterson told ASW this week.

"As soccer will be the beneficiary of the promotion it gives the clubs a chance to foster their own interests and the game in general."

Patterson will get a ten minute spot on the Good Sports Show every Thursday after 6pm, and is calling on Melbourne's NSL clubs to help him to help them.

"I can basically utilise the time as I wish and so I'm calling on the clubs to get involved by trying out some promotions ideas," he explained.

"Perhaps the clubs could consider giving away family tickets or VIP tickets to games as prizes."

"Really it's up to them, but it might give the clubs a chance to test a few marketing strategies."

"It is a matter of spreading the soccer gospel and perhaps getting a few outsiders in-

terested in the game. "I've talked to all the clubs and I'm hopeful that they will see that this is a great opportunity to market their own

clubs. "Marketing has always been a weak spot in our game. I hope for once that the clubs will take up the challenge."

ASW outlets in Melbourne

AFTER receiving a large number of requests from Melbourne soccer fans concerning their desire to be sure of obtaining AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY each week, we publish the following list of areas in Melbourne where ASW is on sale.

Remember, if your area is not on the list, or if your newsagent is running out of copies before you get a chance to grab your own copy, make sure you ask your newsagent to order a copy for you.

ASW is available at 12 different city outlets as well as at newsagents in the following areas:

Abbotsford, Airport West, Albert Park, Altona, East Altona, North Altona, West Altona, Ardeer, Armadale, Ascot Vale, Ashburton, Ashwood, Aspendale, Auburn, Auburn South, Avondale Heights, Balacava, Balwyn, North Balwyn, The Basin, Bayswater, Beaumaris, Belgrave, Belgrave South, Bennettswood, Bentleigh, East Bentleigh, Berwick, Blackburn, Nth Blackburn, Sth Blackburn, Black Rock, Boronia, Box Hill, Box Hill Nth, Box Hill Sth, Brandon Park, Braybrook, Brighton, Brighton East, Middle Brighton, Nth Brighton, Broadmeadows, Brunswick, East Brunswick, West Brunswick,

Bulleen, Bundoora, Burnley, Nth Burnley, Burwood, East Burwood, Camberwell, Sth Camberwell, Carlton, Nth Carlton, Carnegie, Carrum, Sth Caulfield, Caulfield, Nth Caulfield, Chadstone, Chelsea, Cheltenham, Clayton, Nth Clayton, Clifton Hill, Coburg, Collingwood, Craigburn, Cranbourne, Croxton, Croydon, Nth Croydon, Chirnside, Sth Croydon,

Dallas, Dandenong, Nth Dandenong, Dandenong West, Darling Deepdene, Deer Park, Dennis, Diamond Creek, Dingley, Doncaster, East Doncaster, Doveton, Eaglemont, Edithvale, Elsternwick, Eltham, Elwood, Endeavour Hills, Epping, Essendon,

Fairfield, Fawkner, Ferntree Gully, Lower Ferntree Gully, Upper Ferntree Gully, Fitzroy, Nth Fitzroy, Footscray, West Footscray, Forest Hill, Frankston,

Gardenvale, Glenferrie, Sth Glenferrie, Glenhuntingly, Glen Iris, Glenroy, Glen Waverley, Greensborough,

Hallam, Hampton, Hampton Park, Hastings, Hawthorn, Heathmont, Heidelberg, West Heidelberg, Highett, Holmsglen, Hughsdale, Huntingdale, Hurstbridge,

Ivanhoe, East Ivanhoe, North Ivanhoe,

Keilor, East Keilor, Kensington, Keon Park, Kew, East Kew, North Kew, Keysborough, Kilsyth, Kingsbury, Knoxfield, Kooyong,

Lalor, Langwarrin, Lilydale, Laverton,

Macleod, Maidstone, Malvern, East Malvern, Maribyrnong, McKinnon, East Melbourne, Nth Melbourne, Sth Melbourne, West Melbourne, Melton, Mentone, Merlynston, Mill Park, Middle Park, Mitcham, Nth Mitcham, Montague, Mont Albert, Montmorency, Montrose, Moonee Ponds, West Moonee

Vic State League's double whammy draw

BY GREG BLAKE

THE Victorian Soccer Federation's 1990 season finally got under way last weekend with the kick-off of an 18 team State League.

Three weeks after what the VSF had billed as a 12 team Super League was due to begin, the rather confused program for the largely unwanted 18 team league kicked off.

The 18 team format was decided upon at a meeting of the State League Board of Management last week at Soccer House.

In light of the recent Supreme Court ruling against the VSF's right to form the defunct Super League, VSF executive director George Wallace warned State League delegates against voting on a counter proposal from the 12 Super League clubs to form two nine team State League divisions.

Such a division, said Wallace, would contravene the VSF's constitution and thus could be successfully challenged in court.

The 12 clubs involved in the Super League voted against the acceptance of the 18 team proposal as a protest, but indicated that they would play in the first two rounds, scheduled for last Saturday and Monday's Moomba public holiday in Melbourne.

The VSF is expecting to finish its new 34 round competition in time for the NSL playoffs, by utilizing all public holidays and by playing full rounds on both Saturdays and Sundays during five weeks of the season.

Summer Camp Opening in US

CAMP Counselors USA is on the lookout for new recruits and if you're keen, fit and interested in soccer or any other sports or recreational activities, the scheme could be for you.

Young Australians have created an excellent impression in the United States.

400 young Australians working with Camp Counselors USA this year so impressed the organisation that for 1990 they are trying to recruit 500 more of them.

Camp Counselors USA, an organisation which specialises in recruiting counselors for American summer camps, is now looking for young people aged between 19-30, who are interested in working in the United States between the months of June and September 1990.

Camp Counselors USA offers a program whereby outgoing, responsible and caring people spend nine weeks teaching, planning and participating and having fun in activities with groups of children aged 7 to 15.

Free room and board is provided while working at camp as well as pocket money and discount air travel.

In 1989 Camp Counselors USA placed 1500 people from around the world in American summer camps.

If you genuinely love kids, have some experience working with them and possess teaching or coaching experience in categories such as sport and art, you could join another lucky 1500 people in American summer camps this year.

For further information contact Paul McCarthy on (03) 531 4162 or write to him at 1/19 Joyce St, Elwood, Vic. 3184.

— GREG BLAKE

RANGERS

CHAMPIONS 1988-89



RANGERS IN TOP VIDEO

BY GREG BLAKE

Glasgow Rangers fans who rejoiced as the 'Gers took all before in them in both the Scottish Premier League and the Skol Cup in 1988/89 can start rejoicing all over again.

Thanks to PICKWICK VIDEO AUSTRALIA Pty Ltd all Aussie Rangers fans can relive a memorable season all over again.

Pickwick Video has the rights to a new video, viewed at the ASW offices this week, called "Rangers Champions 1988/89".

And believe us, it is a beauty. Even for a non-Rangers fan the video brings the best in goal-packed, footballing action from one of Britain's best supported club.

For the first time ever cameras have recorded every single league match played by Rangers, as well as extended highlights of the thrilling Skol Cup Final as Rangers ran out victorious over traditional rivals Celtic.

The result is 60 minutes of action-packed soccer entertainment.

Four matches on the video have never been broadcast before, and the 60 minute tape features an amazing 83 goals in 31 league and cup matches.

The cameras also go behind the scenes to record the season through the eyes of manager Graham Souness and the rest of the Rangers first team squad.

A top of the league video from a top of the league team. For further information on "Rangers Champions 1988/89" contact Pickwick on (03) 629 3655.

The company's head office is located at 111 Queensbridge St (2nd Floor) Sth Melbourne, Vic. 3205.

Mirabella returns

JOE Mirabella has agreed to return as president of Brunswick Juventus after resigning three weeks ago.

His decision was prompted by the club's committee to take responsibility for the club's \$200,000 debts.

Mirabella had quit after refusing to take over the personal guarantees for the debts from the previous committee.

Mirabella's first act on returning was to finalise the transfer of Queenslander Brian McNicholl from Rochdale Rovers and defender Robert Napoli from Green Gully.

He has also recalled goalkeeper Peter Laumets, who will take over from the injured Pat Marrama.

★★★

THE Victorian Soccer Federation has made the wearing of shipnads compulsory in this year's State League.

Players not wearing shipnads can play, but will be booked and face an automatic one-game suspension with two bookings.

★★★

Teenager Lorenz Kindtner has signed with Sunshine George Cross until the end of the season and won't be going back to the Australian Institute of Sport this year.

Kindtner, a former Cross youth player, originally took time off from the AIS to help the club through its spell of injuries, but now he has developed into one of the team's top players.

Smith refutes AIS charges

BY GRAHAM COOKE

AUSTRALIAN Institute of Sport soccer coach Ron Smith has reacted angrily at what he believes is "distortions, innuendo and plain untruths" in the Mike Johnson column in February 28's Australian Soccer Weekly.

Under the headline, "Australian Institute of Sport — What Gives?", Johnson reported a number of criticisms of the Institute's soccer programme: that it did not make full use of the available facilities; that students only had 10 hours of soccer tuition a week; that the routine was geared to nine-to-five office hours; that a high proportion of training time was taken up with weights.

in visits to the physiotherapist, the nutritionist or the education officer.

"On the weekend he plays a game — if it is an away match that means 12 hours out of the day. The other day of the weekend he has off.

"I would ask Mr Johnson to suggest ways that more training can be fitted in, or how he arrives at the conclusion we work a nine-to-five day.

"I might add that the



AIS coach Ron Smith (left) in happier mood, pictured with Australian Capital Territory Director of Coaching, Steve Darby.

It was also suggested that NSW was under-represented among AIS soccer students and that coaching positions there were dominated by an English-born clique.

Smith said he was particularly upset that Johnson had not named a single critic of the AIS, preferring instead to use such terms as "some involved in the soccer coaching scene in Australia" or simply "they".

The head coach pointed out that AIS students trained for two hours a day on five nights a week, and on three mornings.

"On a day when he trains in the morning, the typical student will get up at 6am," Smith said.

"He will train from 6.30am to about 8am, then shower, have breakfast and go to school. He will get back to the Institute by 4pm, and by 4.15pm he will be in the indoor soccer hall preparing himself for the evening training.

"It is at that time that I have the chance to talk to the students individually, ahead of the actual training which begins at 5pm.

"After that, at around 8pm, he eats an evening meal, then does his school homework, under the supervision of his tutors, until 10pm when he goes to bed.

"In this evening time he may also have to fit

basketball coaches roared with laughter when I told them the article suggested they trained their students for 35 hours a week.

"I would suggest that apprentice players anywhere in the world would be lucky to get more long term training a week, or the opportunity to train on five days out of seven."

There are two sessions of weight training a week under the institute's strength coach, Harry Wardle — neither lasts more than 40 minutes.

On the allegations that NSW was under-represented in the program, Smith said the article was correct in stating that three of the 17 scholarship holders came from NSW.

"What it does not say is that four others were offered places but declined because they were needed for the first teams of NSL clubs," he said.

Smith was particularly bitter at allegation of an English "closed shop" at the AIS.

"Is this a suggestion that I am not suitable for the job?"

"To say that (former AIS assistant coach) Gary Cole got the job because he is English is an insult to anyone's intelligence.

"He was 15 when he came to Australia and he represented this country in 38 full in-

ternationals."

On further charges that the vacant coach's position had been "briefly" advertised and that the criteria of a level two coaching certificate was too low, Smith said the advertisements had appeared on the back page of the Weekend Australian — a placement which had cost "more than \$1000."

"If you read the advertisement carefully, you will see that level two is the minimum qualification," he said.

"It was put at this level because we believe the assistant's position should be open to a leading player nearing the end of his career who can work in co-operation with, and under the direction of the head coach — just as Gary did.

"My view is that one of the worst things about this article is that it is written by someone who is supposedly a soccer expert and a knowledgeable commentator on the Australian scene, yet Mr Johnson has not once in eight years picked up a phone to ask me or my predecessor a question about the program or the selection methods used for it.

"I have stated publicly that I would welcome anyone who wants to come to Canberra to study the program at first hand. Mr Johnson has never expressed a wish to do so.

"People who promote this type of unfounded criticism, apparently without the slightest attempt to verify the facts from me, are doing soccer a grave disservice.

"I consider they should be charged with bringing the game into disrepute."

Package for NSW coaches

Coaches who join up with the NSW Soccer Coaches' Federation will qualify for a special package to assist their work.

Robert Forrai, the newly-elected secretary, said: "All will receive a copy of the outstanding Coaching Overview publication, which could be available as regularly as every six weeks."

"In addition, they will get a NSW State League pass as well as joining in special coaching demonstrations, such as the one recently conducted by national coach Eddie Thomson."



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9. 18 Days	: 23 June — 11 July	: 1/8 & 1/4 & 1/2 final & final
10. 14 Days	: 23 June — 06 July	: 1/8 & 1/4 and semi-final
11. 11 Days	: 01 July — 11 July	: semifinal, 3/4 Place or final
12. 09 Days	: 28 June — 06 July	: Quarter and semifinal
13. 09 Days	: 05 July — 12 July	: Play off 3/4 or final

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Football in quarters is just the start



WHEN FIFA president Joao Havelange recently suggested the breaking up of matches into four 25-minute quarters for the 1994 World Cup finals in the USA he may have signalled the beginning of a new era which could herald in many other radical reforms.

The stunning proposal from the most powerful figure in world football can very easily be seen as an admission that long held traditions which have served the game so well for over a century need no longer be looked upon as sacrosanct, and serious consideration should at least be given to introducing further changes as the game heads towards the 21st century.

Football has made relatively few alterations to its rules since their introduction towards the end of the last century, but while that can be seen as proof that the game has been able to stand

the test of time, a point must be reached when it is forced to respond to the demands of an entirely new era.

The suggestion made by Havelange is unashamedly aimed at satisfying the needs of television and while certain traditionalists are bound to take offence, the reality of the situation is that rightly or wrongly football and its fans need television more than it needs them.

Whether we like it or not the monster has been created and we all have to learn to live with it.

On the other hand, it must never be forgotten that television has played a large role in the development of the game during the last 40 years.

The World Cup finals are expected to draw an estimated television audience of 16 billion people next June, a far cry from the total attendance of 1.3 million who were in Brazil for the 1950 finals.

TV coverage was non-existent at that time and billions of fans were denied an opportunity of watch-

FRANK SCICLUNA PUTS THE FULL CASE FOR UPDATING THE GAME TO FIFA



JOAO HAVELANGE

ing that football fiesta.

Big price

Love it or hate it, football television coverage is here to stay and if some of the game's traditions have to go by the wayside to accommodate it, that's not an excessive big price to pay.

Australian football

authorities and travel agents are reported to have received a huge number of applications for World Cup tickets alone.

Rome's Olympic Stadium holds less than 80,000 spectators, so where will we be without television?

With so much worldwide exposure, football

itself has a responsibility to ensure that the cameras are given a great spectacle to offer its huge audience and this is where Havelange may have done the game its greatest service.

By being prepared to stand tradition on its ear and recommend the four-quarter matches, he may have opened the door for a great many more badly needed, but so far traditionally unacceptable rule changes to be made.

Our own ASF president, Ian Brusasco, will always be remembered for his quaint suggestion a few years ago that the number of goals can be automatically increased by doing away with goalkeepers.

While Brusasco's desire to see a lot more goals scored is understandable, doing away with the keeper altogether was just going too far.

Alternatives however do exist for achieving Brusasco's aims without going as far as a position which will always be an integral part of football.

All that's needed is

for the hundred year old rules of the game to be closely examined and sufficient boldness displayed by FIFA to drag football into the 21st century.

There is plenty of scientific evidence, for example, to suggest that the player today is physically bigger in size, stronger and fitter than he was a hundred years ago, when the rules of the game were established.

Yet goalkeepers still have the same size goal target to protect that their small counterparts had in the last century.

Is it so far-fetched to propose that goalposts be made a metre wider and possibly half a metre higher?

Isn't that simply responding to the human evolution which has developed over the years?

That one simple change alone is bound to produce more goals for spectators and therefore more entertainment value.

Traditional diehards will argue that higher scorelines do not necessarily equate with better entertainment,

but no matter which way you look at it, football is first and foremost all about goals.

Fears that larger goalposts will lead to ridiculous basketball-like scorelines are totally unfounded.

A 10-year-old keeper is expected to protect the same size goalposts that a giant like Marconi keeper Bobby Catlin has to, yet how often do we see unacceptable huge scorelines in junior football?

The undoubted superior physical fitness of today's players must also make it feasible to increase the size of the playing area.

Improved tactical awareness quite often enable teams to plug all the spaces and eliminate much of the flowing beauty of the game.

How often have we seen a match develop into an open, thrilling encounter once one or two players have been

CONTINUED ON
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ADELAIDE Hellas, despite its poor QNSL run, believes it may have unearthed a couple of youngsters of rear star quality.

Damien Counter, 17, is a utility of a class and striker Steve Politis has impressed many astute judges with his pace, power and bravery.

Blacktown City's nightmare NSL season lurched into further difficulties with the resignation of club secretary Peter Thorne.

Thorne's exit, effective immediately, follows the dumping of coaches Les Scheinflug and Walter Tamandl in a wretched season which has the Demons stranded at the bottom of the NSL table.

Club president Greg Gingell blamed Thorne's departure on "too many pressures from outside influences at the club".

Blacktown has won only three of its 20 matches this season and looks doomed for relegation to the NSW State League after two seasons in the QNSL.

EDDIE KRNEVIC will definitely be leaving his French club Mulhouse at the end of the season.

The tip is he will be headed for England, but don't discount a return to Belgium either.

But wherever he chooses to go, Krnecic won't be paid anywhere near the big bucks he earned in the French First Division this year.

ALISTAIR EDWARDS has signed a new contract with Sydney Olympic after failing to make the grade in English professional football.

MELITA Eagles goalkeeper Alex McPherson celebrated his 32nd birthday on Sunday.

McPherson, whom Melita coach Raul Blanco calls a "born-again goalkeeper" has been in superb form this season after a checkered career.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC president George Pashalis said the club was well on its way towards raising the \$100,000 it owes the Government in back-taxes.

The club printed 750 tickets at \$200 each in a raffle for a BMW automobile to raise funds to pay the taxman.

THE only publication in which the ASF has

advertised its national coaching position is FIFA's monthly bulletin, FIFA NEWS. The ad appeared in the current March issue.

The Australian Soccer Federation's agent in England is reported to have made contact with 15 countries who are interested in hosting Australia's new under 23 Olympic team in August and September.

APIA coach Manfred Schaefer has fined defender Darren Stewart for his sending off against Sunshine George Cross in Round 19.

"I won't stand for players losing their cool," Schaefer said.

"I hope this teaches him a lesson."

The ASW staff would like to pass on their condolences to Sunshine George Cross coach Ernie Merrick and family on the passing of Ernie's father last Wednesday.

guay Penrith Soccer Club being granted the new name of "Fairfield City".

The State League club had moved from Cook Park as very few of their personnel or supporters came from the Penrith area.

The NSW Federation noted that Marconi did not use "Fairfield" on their letterhead when writing to complain to the Federation.

APIA striker Ron Manley is returning to Ireland, citing family reasons. Manley joined the club from the Victorian State League early this season.

BRIAN ELLEM could be out for the rest of the season with a fractured cheekbone sustained at training — a tragedy for Apia and for a talented player who really caught fire this season.

ST GEORGE coach Frank Arok has taken up other duties following his move out of the national coach's position. He has joined

car, last year's captain, enabling coach Tom Sermanni to announce his first team squad. The Canberra outfit has been promised a goodly share of home games in the NSW Challenge Cup, which is to commence on March 31. The arrangement is believed to fit in well with the National Soccer League, as NSW is keen to keep Cup fixtures outside Sydney, to avoid clashes with games at the end of the NSL season.

Recent Australian Institute of Sport signing Stephen Corica has won the Queensland Sportstar of the Year Award. He was a member of the Australian Joeys side that competed in the last Under 16 World Cup in Scotland.

STEVE O'CONNOR, with 15 A internationals and another 27 against overseas club sides behind him, is favoured to become head soccer coach Ron Smith's assistant at the Australian Institute of Sport. O'Connor has had many years experience as a high school physical education teacher, and could expect to receive extended leave from the NSW Dept of Education.

The coach of last year's Victorian State League champions, Bobby McLachlan, says he wasn't the only man responsible for Morwell Falcons' shock title win. "The real man down there is Don Di Fabrizio," says McLachlan of the long-time Morwell president. "He inspires me — Don is the type of man who makes you feel inspired to do things as well as you possibly can do." Morwell's newest initiative is the installation of top class lighting facilities. The club is hoping to stage Friday and Saturday night State League fixtures later in the 1990 season.

BAC Group (Business Assurance Consultants) as a consultant. Also with BAC are Eddie Thomson and John Kosmina.

SOUTH Melbourne has rejected a bid for young striker Con Boutsianis from Caulfield City and Port Melbourne.

Boutsianis has yet to play in Souths' first team though he has scored 15 goals in their youth side.

Club president George Vasilopoulos is convinced the player has a big future and sees him emerging as another Paul Trimboli in the near future.

Canberra Croatia has re-signed George Kuls-



The QNSL may have switched to afternoon kickoffs, but Apia Leichhardt fan Marissa still finds time for the beach — and regular outings to Lambert Park.

interested Makedonia but Croatia insisted that the talented, young front man would not be released from his contract.

After 19 Rounds of NSL matches both South Melbourne Hellas and Sydney Olympic are well on their way to unbeaten home records for the season. South, to March 4, had won eight and drawn two of ten games at home, whilst Olympic had won six and drawn three of nine at home. In NSL history only two clubs have completed league seasons without a home defeat and both clubs achieved the enviable record twice.

Sydney City went undefeated at home in 1981 and 1983 and Sydney Croatia repeated that effort back-to-back in 1985 and 1986.

YUGOSLAV First Division club Hajduk Split is expected to play three matches in

ASW extends sympathy to ASF president Ian Brusasco on the passing of his elder brother, Ernie, at the age of 62 after a very short illness.

DON'T be surprised if New Zealand is giving serious consideration to checking if Melita Eagles' sharpshooter Greg Brown would be available to appear for the All Whites again.

He has been right out of favour, but the Kiwis are bound to note that his present NSL tally of 11 goals has him on top of the scorers' table.

SOCCER



Australia against QNSL selections in May in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

The tour would be underwritten by Tony Topic and Rade Cikes.

Hajduk toured Australia way back in 1949 when they played 20 matches for 18 wins, a draw and a loss and scored 111 goals to 19.

GRAHAM ARNOLD still believes Sydney Croatia is a distinct Top Five possibility.

Although the team is a fair way from the leading contenders, Arnold warns rivals not to write them off.

The Socceroo stalwart is convinced 29 or 30 points will be enough to make the "semis".

He is confident Croatia will collect at least another nine points before the end of the regular season.

The NSW Soccer Federation has handed down a ruling under which all persons seeking engagement for a club as a coach or official will be required to register with it. Registration forms need to be lodged at the Federation office by April 1.

FEW players have moved around more than Phil Redmond, who has joined ACT outfit Downer Olympic in a bid to revive their flagging fortunes.

Investment of funds remaining after the sale of the club's licensed premises has secured its playing future. English-born Redmond, 28, has played in National and State League football in Newcastle, Canberra, Brisbane and Perth.

CONTRARY to our earlier report, Victoria's John Santa Isabel (36) isn't the youngest QNSL referee. The honour actually goes to Sydney's John McConnell, who turned 29 on Monday. The same item showed NSL referees receiving \$2000 per game. For the many whistlers queuing up, please wipe off the accidentally included "extra O".

Bradley's contract at Bury

PATRICK Bradley, 17, the ex-Marconi and Sydney City youth player, has been offered a full-time professional contract by the Bury Football Club in England.

He is currently playing with Bury as a second year apprentice and still has three months to go on his UK Government funded YTS apprenticeship.

The offer is the first by Bury to a club apprentice for seven years, and puts him in famous company.

Amongst previous juniors to come through the Bury Youth Scheme are Colin Bell (Manchester City and England) and Neville Southall (Everton and Wales).

Like Craig Johnston, Patrick went to the UK as a 15-year-old lad with a burning ambition to succeed as a full-timer.

Patrick is really grateful to his Australian coaches: David Jones (Toongabbie Juniors), Tam Finllynson (Granville), Klaus Okon (Marconi), John Doyle (Sydney City), Greg Ankudinoff (NSW U13, 14, 15) and Alan Vest (NSW State U18).



Preston's versatile Robert Markovac, who scored two goals last weekend, is enjoying one of his best seasons — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

The name of a prominent serving coach is being canvassed as a likely choice as National Director of Coaching, should present incumbent Eddie Thomson be chosen to fill the vacant national coach's position.

A strong whisper has been going around that St George offered to sell the assets at St George Stadium to the NSW Soccer Federation. At the same time the Saints are waiting on acceptance of their proposals to Rockdale Municipal Council for a dramatic up-grading of the arena.

Marconi was unhappy over the former Uru-

BAC Group (Business Assurance Consultants) as a consultant. Also with BAC are Eddie Thomson and John Kosmina.

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Shocks in Victorian opening round

BY MARK BREKAU

A small crowd of under 500 braved the Melbourne weather to see Brunswick Juventus lose 1-0 to Croydon.

For Croydon supporters, the hero of the day was striker Andy Humble.

The first half saw both teams locked in a struggle for midfield supremacy although it was later to be an area in which Croydon would gain the better advantage. Both teams squandered their limited scoring opportunities in the first half.

Croydon could well have gone ahead in the 21st minute if Stuart McArthur had made more of his rebound shot. Andy Humble and Juventus midfielder Fadio also had good shots on goal.

But this day was to belong to Andy Humble as Croydon stamped their mark on the game in the second half. Humble broke the deadlock in the 71st minute.

Croydon broke down the left flank with some good work by Goran Runje, whose low and accurate cross from the by line found Humble, who had no problems finding his target, more importantly, the goal was the 100th league goal of his career.

Brunswick appeared to fade out of the game after Humble's goal, and Croydon never looked like losing their goal advantage.

David Kelepac, a former Juventus player, could have made it 2-0 in the final stages of the match when his header went over the wrong side of the bar.

MOOROOLBARK 2 BULLEEN 3

Bulleen put in a fine performance to take the points against an unlucky Mooroolbark side, fresh from the Second Division.

Mooroolbark's first goal came from a corner taken by Graham Heys. A goalmouth scramble led to an own goal, although Bulleen protested that their goalkeeper had been fouled while trying to clear the ball.

Then after 30 minutes Bulleen levelled from an Alex Livingston penalty, given when Stan Theodakis had been brought down. Bulleen had done the majority of the attacking in the first half, gaining 13 corners to Mooroolbark's three.

The second half continued at a fast pace, and Bulleen scored twice within 10 minutes to seal the game. A good build-up involving six players led to a Livingston cross from the left, with Incantalupo diving to head home in the 60th minute.

Ten minutes later Darren Tuck made it 3-1 with a neat shot

after some fine work had been done on the left by Incantalupo.

Player coach Graham French pulled one back for Mooroolbark in the 86th, latching onto a Hayes corner from 10 metres but it was too late as Bulleen ran out winners.

MELB CITY JUST 2 FRANKSTON PINES 2

A match that had tempers flaring as both teams vied for a point in front of a small crowd. Frankston appeared unsettled in defence, and an own goal appeared to point this fact out to them.

A corner by Vasco Mitrousi after 10 minutes curled towards Pines keeper Leigh Davies, who failed to deal with the cross adequately, and touched the ball into his own net.

Fourteen minutes later Frankston levelled when Steve Keenan headed in from close range. By now Frankston had settled into the flow of the match, and two minutes later made it 2-1 when some good work by Darrell Gooch on the edge of the box let Geoff Gillard free to score from close range.

After the break a lapse in play by Frankston saw JUST equalise when Sasha Bevis shook off his marker to score.

MORWELL FALCONS 0 FAWKNER 1

Last season, Morwell Falcons won both their matches against Fawknor by 3-0 and 5-0 respectively, as they took off the State League championship.

This season, Fawknor went to Morwell determined to avenge the results of 1989, and that is exactly what they did.

Morwell started the match with some good midfield work, and should have taken the lead after only eight minutes when striker Ally Dick broke through only to fire a point-blank shot at Fawknor goalkeeper Amil Turudia. This was one of a number of fine saves that the Fawknor keeper pulled off during the match, and he was certainly one of the best on ground.

Captain Jim McBride was substituted after just 20 minutes, and his loss appeared to unsettle Morwell's style of play, this being very evident in the second half.

After the interval Fawknor applied the pressure, and undertook to gain control of the midfield, an area that had been evenly contested in the first half. In fact, they created three good goalscoring opportunities in the first 15 minutes of the second half, but failed to find the net on each occasion.

In the 51st minute St Albans secured the points when Dennis



Charlie Egan in a typically aggressive stance.

Then their persistence finally paid dividends. New signing Eric Cardwell (from Perth club Bayswater Inter) broke the deadlock when he found himself on the receiving end of a build-up that had involved four players. Cardwell slotted the ball home from the edge of the penalty area in the 67th minute.

FOOTNOTE: Australian Soccer Weekly sends its condolences to the McBride family, who lost Mrs McBride in a tragic motor car accident over the weekend in Scotland.

ST ALBANS 3 BOX HILL 0

St Albans overcame a spirited Box Hill side in this match, but the final scoreline did not mean that the match was all one-sided.

Box Hill suffered a severe blow after just five minutes when goalkeeper Craig McCulloch was involved in a collision with a St Albans player, only to come off second best. A hip injury saw Craig leave the ground, and sweeper Strav Basic don the green jersey for the rest of the match.

St Albans paraded several of their new signings, and it was one of these who opened the scoring in the 17th minute. A throughball from Mick Colina found 17-year-old Oliver Pondeljak, a player with plenty of promise for the future. His pass was received by former North Geelong Croatia player Patrick Alilovic, who scored from 15 metres in his league debut.

Alilovic was also involved in the second goal. His free kick in the 24th minute found another new signing, Darko Basara (signed from Morwell Falcons), who set-up Pondeljak to make it 2-0.

Box Hill created several scoring opportunities, and both Brett Lavelle and Steve McIntyre had the chance to even up the scoreline.

In the 51st minute St Albans secured the points when Dennis

Morovic latched onto a Darko Basara pass and scored from the right side of the penalty box.

THOMASTOWN 2 GREEN GULLY AJAX 1

A well contested match that saw all the goals scored in the first 45 minutes. But the win was a very important one for Thomastown, simply because it was their first-ever win over Green Gully in the League, the 10 previous League encounters between these two clubs either being drawn or won by Green Gully.

Ajax opened the scoring in the third minute under controversial circumstances. A free kick just outside of the Thomastown penalty area led to a goalmouth scramble, which was cleared only to have referee Zigi Mnich deem that the ball had crossed the goal line, much to the delight of the Ajax players. Mnich recorded that goal as an own goal, with no Ajax player laying claims to have scored it.

The goal did little to dampen Thomastown's enthusiasm, and it was not long before they levelled the score. A Dean Hennessey cross from the byline found Russell Athersych who neatly slotted the ball home in the 8th minute.

Thomastown continued to press home their attack, with some very fine work being done in midfield by Joe O'Donnell and Ken Murphy, their player-coach this season.

It was O'Donnell who helped break the spell that Gully had cast over Thomastown in their 10 previous encounters.

His deep cross from the right found Victor Cristildo whose skilful control saw him volley from just outside the penalty area, the ball glancing into the net of the post in the 30th minute.

NORTHCOTE CITY 2 CAULFIELD 0

"The result was the most important thing for our first game," said Northcote City coach

Roy McLaren as his team ran out winners 2-0. Not a mediocre game by any standards, with each side taking no risks in their attempts to gain the points.

Northcote scored a goal in each half. The first came from a high ball crossed from the left field. Caulfield scrambled to clear the ball away from the Northcote attack, only to see their efforts fall loose to Pedro Ramos, who shrugged off a strong challenge from his marker and passed to new signing Neil Mills.

Mills, making his debut after a recent transfer from English Fourth Division club Rochdale, crowned his debut with a goal. However, later on he was involved in a collision which saw him end this match with a bad case of concussion.

The second Northcote goal was scored in the 60th minute. A corner from the right found Nick Constantino who beat a Caulfield defender and crossed from the left. The ball found Manny Anezakis who headed in from close range.

RINGWOOD CITY 3 HEIDELBERG ALEX 2

Heidelberg attacked from the first minute, and took an early lead after just 90 seconds when an Angie Kotzoulos cross found Alan Scott who fired the ball home. Ten minutes later, tragedy struck the away side when keeper Jeff Olver was involved in a collision and had to be taken off and reserve keeper Michael Chatzitoras replaced him between the posts. Jeff is believed to have a spine injury.

Ringwood, playing a 4-4-2 formation, struck back in the 15th minute when John Corvan's shot was not met by the Heidelberg keeper and the ball fell loose for Wayne Brown to slot home the ball. Brown made it 2-1 eight minutes later when he scored after a good build-up involving Darren Plank.

The second half continued with some excellent soccer being played by both sides. Heidelberg played their way back into contention when Paul Lewis headed from inside the box after receiving a corner from Nick Duskas on the right side.

Lewis should have made it 3-2 to Heidelberg a little later when he was pulled down inside the Ringwood penalty area after beating their offside trap but he missed the spotkick and Heidelberg's chance of taking the lead.

That miss by Lewis allowed Ringwood the opportunity to clinch the match, and an excellent build-up starting

from the back sealed the match for the home side. Darren Plank pushing the ball between two players to Mick McGuire, who easily scored to give his side the lead.

ALBION 2 ALTONA GATE 0

Newly-promoted club Albion Turk Gucu, under the guidance of former Scotland and Nottingham Forest striker Ian Wallace, secured both points with a fine win against Altona Gate on Saturday.

But Altona did not concede the points through lack of trying, for they put Albion under extreme pressure for the first 40 minutes of the match.

Unfortunately, they could not capitalise on their chances, and paid the price for this in the 25th minute when Albion took the lead. Some good ball play down the right flank led to a cross finding Steve Douglas, who scored from four yards.

Albion were again put under pressure by Altona in the second half, but the end result of the Altona attack never seemed like finding the back of the net. The referee added some injury time on at the end, and it was here that Albion secured their first State League win for 1990.

Mick McGronian found space to provide a cross for Peter Samardziga, a pre-season signing from Preston Madeonia. Samardziga headed the ball from close range to mark his League debut with a goal, and to give Albion two points.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulleen	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
Ringwood City	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
St Albans	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
Albion Turk Gucu	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
Northcote City	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
Thomastown	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Croydon City	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Fawknor	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Frankston Pines	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Melb. City JUST	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Heidelberg Alex	1	0	1	2	3	0	1
Mooroolbark	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Green Gully Ajax	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Brunswick Juve	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Morwell Falcons	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Altona Gate	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Caulfield City	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Box Hill	1	0	0	1	0	0	0



THIS WEEK'S GAMES: Mooroolbark v Heidelberg, Northcote City v Croydon City, Morwell Falcons v Green Gully, Frankston Pines v Juventus, Albion v Bulleen, Altona Gate v Box Hill, St Albans v Caulfield City, Fawknor v Ringwood City, Thomastown v Melbourne JUST.

CENTRAL COAST

The Central Coast Youth League teams had mixed success against Manly on Sunday as the Under 13 won 3-1, the Under 14 drew 3-3, the under 15 lost 4-1 and the under 17 lost 2-1.

A compulsory match committee meeting will be held by the Central Coast Soccer Association tonight (Wednesday) at the Central Coast Leagues Club starting 8pm. A member from every club must attend.

The next MINI SOCCER coaches' clinic will be held this Saturday at Kanival Oval at 2pm-4pm. Future clinics will be held on consecutive Saturdays at Killarney Field and Umina Oval. The clinics are conducted by Jim Foley.

Supporters, players and parents are warned that any coaching clinic not approved by CCSA Ltd will not be covered by players/coach insurance. For enquiries telephone 28 4806.

— KEVIN BEST

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every Wednesday!

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They may cover any relevant topic in the entire world of soccer.

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Queensland worried over Victorian League fiasco

BY GREG RUSSELL

THE Queensland Soccer Federation is closely monitoring the upheaval within Victorian Soccer as it could directly affect the Sunshine State's return to the National League.

As promotion rules stand, Queensland's only avenue of return is for the XXXX League premiers to win a play-off against the Victorian and South Australian champions.

That may well change after a decision is made following the release of Dr Graham Bradley's recommendations on promotion and relegation in the NSL.

Should it not, the scenario of a Queensland team being alone in the promotion play-offs and advancing directly to the NSL is not unrealistic.

At the time of writing, the VSF were still unable to come up with a draw which would enable their 38-game season to be completed in time for the NSL promotion play-offs, which are likely to be in early October to allow the winner to start in the net summer season.

Even if the VSF finds a solution, the traumatic season which is likely to follow could well produce a Victorian cham-

pion without NSL aspirations, as occurred three years ago when Brisbane Lions only had to beat West Adelaide in the play-offs.

The intentions of the South Australian clubs also is unclear. Should West Adelaide escape relegation, it surely would be suicidal for a third Adelaide team to seek NSL inclusion.

That could leave Queensland on its own. But that also could create problems for the QSF.

The Federation is committed to entering a combined team to the national competition. But some clubs, in particular Brisbane City, believe Queensland's re-entry to the competition should be on a club basis.

The QSF's 'Brisbane United' plans could be thwarted if Bradley's report does not recommend instant franchising and the XXXX League premiers refuse to hand over their promotion place.

QSF president Wallace Dann is confident

the situation will not arise. "We are continuing to work towards a combined entry and believe avenues will open to allow a combined Queensland team to take its rightful place in the national competition," he said.

(It now seems that Victoria will double up games to produce a challenger for a NSL place, if promotion and relegation applies for 1990/91. — Ed.).

BRIBE SHOCK

BRISBANE City officials are investigating claims that some of their fans offered coach Juan Cutillas bribes to play certain youngsters.

Cutillas confirmed approaches had been made, but said the bribes were not money. "It was just some extra incentives to let these boys play," Cutillas said.

Club secretary Angelo Penniussi warned the offender faced expulsion from the club.

"We had a meeting after Juan spoke to me about the offers put to him," Penniussi said. "The committee made it clear that this type of thing will not be tolerated."

Penniussi, the spokesman of a new committee voted in at Spencer Park this season, has already vowed to rid the club of troublemakers he claimed nearly destroyed City last season.

The club has embarked on a rebuilding program and has instructed Cutillas to instigate a youth policy.

Since his appointment two months ago, Cutillas has tried to put the broom through the club and has told his squad there would be a "no stars" approach to pre-season selections.

"I want to give everyone a chance and anyone who gets in the first team will have earned their place," Cutillas said. "It is silly to force the kids into the team. It can destroy their careers."

City have started the pre-season well with their results including a 7-0 drubbing of newly promoted Acacia Ridge.

— GREG RUSSELL



Bobby Hamilton, now coach of Pine Rivers, in his Brisbane Lions days. Hamilton is confident his young team will do well when the XXXX League kicks off at the end of the month.

Pick of the Post

LEVEL 3

I recently travelled from South Australia to attend the Level 3 coaching course held at Valentine Park, Parklea.

I wish to congratulate the NSW Soccer Federation and in particular the NSW Director of Coaching David Lee for organising and conducting this very thorough and high quality week of instruction.

My congratulations also to Casey De Bruin who gave so unreservedly all week, while being very ably assisted by Chris James and John Frew.

This group of dedicated staff coaches along with Mr Lee set and maintained such high standards all week that I'm sure all who attended couldn't help but go away as more knowledgeable and committed coaches.

To round off a memorable week the National Director of Coaching, Eddie Thomson, found time to come out and conduct a couple of very interesting and informative practical coaching sessions, as well as sharing with all present some of his personal philosophies, ideas and his zest for the game.

Mick Champion
14 Cannon St
Pt Adelaide
Sth Aust. 5015

New NSL interest

I read with some interest the article by John Woods in the February 14 issue of ASW, and agree wholeheartedly with his comments.

Like Mr Woods I am an Aussie of British descent and have always loved watching and playing soccer.

I played for many years as a junior, and have watched the English football on TV every week for as long as I can remember.

I have always loved the game and have always followed the progress of the national team, but until this season I had never been to an NSL game.

But how could I follow an NSL team?

I'm not Croatian, Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Maltese etc as I did not belong to clubs that are so foreign to everyone except their own ethnic minorities.

So I just went to watch the rugby league instead.

And that's where the real problems of Australian soccer lie.

If someone has the courage to develop general and not ethnic teams, I think NSL attendances everywhere would double.

The potential is unlimited.

More Australian chil-

dren play soccer than any other game. Ask any Australian what is their favourite soccer team and almost all will nominate a British team such as Liverpool, Manchester United, Arsenal, etc.

Few will mention a NSL team.

The FA Cup final is one of the most popular sporting spectacles on Australian TV and the World Cup viewing audiences will be as massive as ever.

Yet these fans, despite their love of soccer, end up at the VFL or rugby league.

With the new summer season a proportion of these fans are there for the taking, yet until the NSL makes a stand we will not have their support.

As for me, I discovered NSL football this season, thanks to St George.

I have been welcomed with open arms by a small band of mainly Australian, English and Scottish fans, and despite the Saints' poor form on the field I have thoroughly enjoyed myself.

If there is anyone else out there who is disenchanted with the NSL and wants to make a fresh start, ring me on 664 1819 or Heath Avery on 588 4661 and our little group will make you feel at home.

Digby Ross
Coogee NSW 2034

YUGAL'S 30TH BIRTHDAY

YUGAL, one of Australia's most famous soccer clubs, is celebrating its 30th birthday this year.

Former players and officials are invited to contact Joe Alagich on 977 1059 between 9 and 11am for details of a special anniversary function to be held on April 28 at Petersham Town Hall.

The club would like to hear from everyone who has been associated with Yugal over the years to make it a celebration to remember.

Now known as Auburn-Yugal Soccer Club, Yugal were founded in 1959, with the late Maron Kovacevic and Maron Alagich, still going strong at 71, instrumental in moulding the team into a top outfit.

Less than 12 months after its formation, the club won promotion to the NSW Federation First Division, where in its first year in the top division it took out the Australia Cup, then the symbol of club supremacy in Australia.

The club also won a NSW grand final — a memorable 4-0 trouncing of St George at the old Sydney Sports Ground in 1970 as well as the 1963 Ampol Cup, the final of which was played at Redfern Oval.

Yugal were renowned for their skilful, eye-catching football thanks to the many players brought out from Yugoslavia in the sixties and early 70s.

The club's fortunes took a turn for the worse in the mid to late seventies and they are now in the NSW State League Division Two, and based in the Auburn area.

Two of the stalwarts of the great Yugal team of the past are still with the club, as coaches, and at no pay. I might add — Joe Alagich and Steve Vis-kovic.

— LOU GAUTIER

REGIONAL NEWS

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Taringa snares Aussie skipper

QUEENSLAND XXXX League club Taringa Rovers has scored the signing coup of the season by snaring Australian schoolboys captain Glenn Gwynn.

Gwynn, from Cairns, was chased by a number of clubs including Marconi and Brisbane Lions.

The 18-year-old defender was voted the player of the tour in the schoolboys' recent trip to England and the United States.

The Queensland youth captain, who is rated as one of the best North Queensland prospects since Frank Farina, is currently trialling for a place in the next young Socceroos side.

Taringa coach Glenn Davis is enthusiastic about Gwynn's signing, which will also see the youngster working with club president Frank Speare at S. Smith and Sons.

Gwynn looms as the perfect replacement for long-time tenacious Taringa defender Mick Savage, who has retired.

"Glenn is one of the best young prospects in the state and will be given every chance to establish himself at

Taringa," Davis said.

Gwynn's signing continues the building of Taringa into one of the most exciting teams in the competition. The club already has secured former Young Socceroo, Stephen Glockner.

Tough English import David Munn at 29 is the side's oldest player with the average age of the team in the low 20s.

"We're a young side, yet this is the third year together for most of the guys," Davis said. "We are a team that will be around for a long time and there is no reason now why we can't start winning major trophies."

Taringa also are set to be strong in the goalkeeper department this season.

Last year's No.1 Tony Scanlan has retired, but will continue skills coaching the club's three keepers — Jeff Keating, Peter Speare and Jon Petie — all of whom have XXXX League experience.

— GREG RUSSELL

Alan Clark surveys the Adelaide scene

IN another innovative move, the SA Soccer Federation board is going 'on circuit'.

A monthly board meeting, for the first time in history, last week was held away from headquarters at Hindmarsh.

Birkalla Eagles were hosts at their compact Camden set-up.

"The idea gives three-fold benefit," said SASF chairman Alex Cichanowski.

"It allows board members a chance to visit a club and understand a club's working, it allows the club to see the board and how it works and it improves communication and liaison between the two."

STAND by for a surprise when Adelaide City announces a new sponsor this week.

There could be some froth and bubble among rival companies over the announcement.

ADELAIDE City has pulled off a coup by attracting back Scottish great Dixie Deans for the club's game against Melbourne City Croatia on April 15 at Hindmarsh.

Former Celt Deans was a huge favourite with City fans when he played in the NSL in the late 1970s.

He made 56 NSL appearances and boosted City gates to around the 10,000 mark.

FORMER Hellas goalkeeper David Miller has given Adelaide Croatia a boost.

Miller, who played superbly for Melbourne Croatia against his old club in NSL action at Hindmarsh, stayed over to give a special talk-in at training to young Croatia goalkeeper Peter Blazincic.

"It was a good gesture and much appreciated by young Peter," said coach Donald Campbell.

"Peter learnt a lot from what David had to say."

David's younger brother Colin plays with Adelaide Croatia. He also is coaching the club's under 14 side.

SALISBURY have been given a boost by striker Tony Gasparetto rejoining them from QNSL side Hellas.

Gasparetto was troubled by a groin injury but also had difficulty in meeting the Hellas training schedule.

The Berries also look sure to get a boost with the return of big

goalkeeper Frank Ostendorf.

He has been out of the game after two horrific motor cycle crashes but now is back in training and ready to push young Chris Terpcou for the keeper's spot at Steve Jarvis Park.

Young Salisbury utility player Mark Andrews will be sidelined for a chunk of the season after undergoing a four-hour operation to repair a double fracture of his jaw, sustained during a recent match.

FORMER Adelaide City, Beograd, Modbury and Polonia man Lucio Signore has won about every honour on offer in SA and now is to try his luck at coaching.

The little midfielder, who played for the Soccerroo Youth team seven times, will lead top division amateur side Macedonia.

Having played under Zoran Matic, Les Scheinflug, Rale Rasic and John Nyskophus, Signore feels he has something to put back into the game.

SOCCER is booming in the football and cricket stronghold of Greenock in SA's Barossa Valley.

An amateur side set up there last year carried off the league title in its first season. Now the club boasts a couple more teams for this season.

SALISBURY officials are sure they have some young talent to watch.

Sean Clark, Paul Simmons and Duane Dobson are teenagers who already have made it through to the first team.

But young midfielder marksman Paul Agastino may be one we'll hear much more about. The tall 11-year-old already plays with the club's under 18 side and is tipped for a glowing future.

CROATIA has welcomed back defender Mike Barnett from Hellas.

The resolute, cool full-back left Croatia and helped Hellas win the State League title but he was unable to settle into the club's QNSL set-up. He has returned to help Croatia's Foundation State League bid this year.

ENFIELD City has given a first coaching chance to experienced player Ralph De

Pinto.

He takes over from Neil Bopnnar, who is State League coach at Hellas. Enfield has attracted Fab Tarca from Cumberland and young goalkeeper Darien Bauer to its playing ranks.

HELLAS coach Neil Bonnar is confident he can help build a solid future for the club from its nucleus of budding talent.

"There are some really good kids here," said the nuggetty Scot. "They can be the new backbone of the club. We just have to persevere with them and add some experience alongside to develop them."

AN arthroscopy has given Croatia skipper Paul Blute a boost.

The big defender limped off in Croatia's 1-0 Ampol Cup final win over Birkalla Eagles.

There were worries he faced a lengthy lay-off with serious cartilage and ligament trouble. But surgery cleaned up the knee and he could resume training in fortnight.

PROMOTED Cumberland expects a boost soon with stars Charlie Stewart and Mike Degenhart returning after cricket commitments.

Skipp Stevie Parks also is near peak fitness again.

BOOM building firm Fairmont Pacific has agreed to sponsor SA referees for the second successive year.

Ref officials are likely to buy kit bags and a computer to aid administration procedures with the money.

BEOGRAD and Hellas opened their West End Premier Cup campaign with wins.

Goals from Darren Moss and Andy Tol-sand, from the penalty spot, saw Beograd beat Noarlunga. Branko Mikulic scored for the Sky Blues.

Raymond Blair and Robert Muscio scored for Hellas while Duane Gray netted beaten Azzurri's goal.

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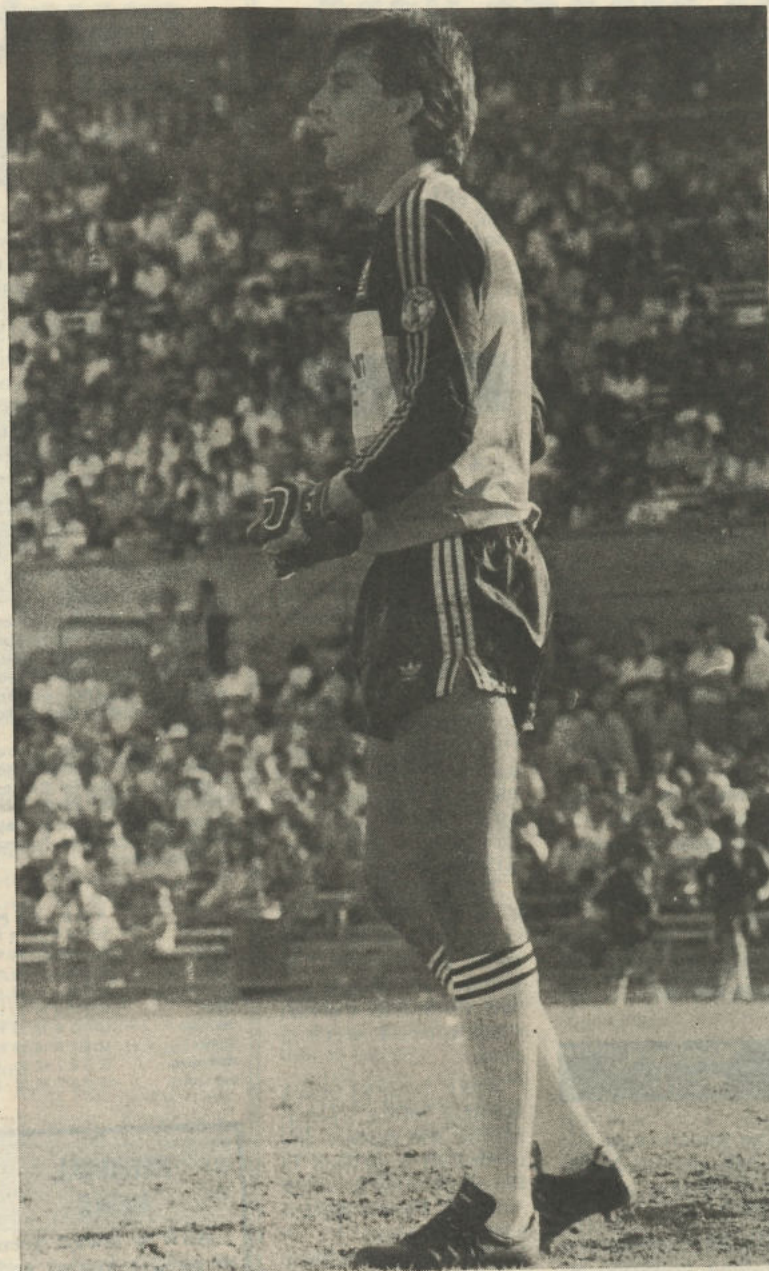
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Robert Zabica presents an imposing picture as he surveys the field from his goal. The Adelaide City 'keeper, a new Soccerroo cap, has been a tower of strength and an inspiration for City as they mount a challenge for the QNSL title and the Cup.

SA sides chase rich rewards

FOUNDATION State League sides in SA will be after rich rewards in the chase for points this season.

Soccer's chief backer, Foundation SA, launched the season at Hindmarsh with an innovative 'spectacular'.

SA Soccer Federation general manager, Mike Wells indicated rich rewards lay ahead.

Apart from the prestige West End Premier and Coca Cola Cup trophies, top prizemoney will be up for grabs in the Foundation SA Leagues.

A total of \$70,000 will be shared by sides from the two Federation divisions — that's almost double last year's.

Prizemoney for the two divisions is worked out on a pro rata basis with affiliation fees.

The First Division champion will claim \$16,000 with \$8000, \$4000 and \$2000 going to each of the others in the top four.

But there is a bonanza for ALL clubs.

A cash allocation will be made for each point gained. That is in addition to any final placing reward.

The top Second Division club also will win \$8000. Others in the top four can earn \$4000, \$2000 and \$1000.

The season itself — kicked off innovatively and with a bang — looks one of the most even on record.

Any one of four or five sides looks capable of clinching the Foundation crown.

The Second Division, too, seems sure to sizzle with at least four strong contenders to join the 'big boys' of Division One.

With a sensible new method of selecting the State's Player of the Year and special awards for Fair Play and Coach of the Month and Coach of the Year, courtesy of Home Fresh Bakeries and Seppelt Wines respectively, the bang of the season opening should resound with success.

Boom times are here for well-organised soccer in SA.

— ALAN CLARK

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ASW

every

Wednesday!

ROZIC GETS TOP POST

FORMER Sydney Croatia coach Vedran Rozic is to be appointed technical director of crack First Division Yugoslav club Hajduk Split.



Rozic spent most of his career as a player with the club and he was the team captain for many years.

After five years in Australia, he has been welcomed back with open arms.

Should the Hajduk tour of Australia in May eventuate, he will be back much sooner than anticipated.

The coach who led Yugoslavia to victory in the 1987 Youth World Cup in Chile is the first well-known personality to apply for the vacant Soccerroo position.

Mirsad Fazlagic, whose team beat Yugoslavia 4-0 in Chile, coached JUST in Melbourne for a season in 1988.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

sent off and space suddenly begins to appear?

Rather than reduce the number of players in a team the same effect can be produced simply by enlarging the size of the pitch.

So many other areas need to be looked at if football is to remain entrenched as the world's leading team sport in years to come.

What about the often criticised penalty shootouts to eliminate drawn matches completely — what's wrong with tactical replacements as in rugby league instead of the straight out substitutions we now have?

If the offside rule cannot be done away with, why not at least introduce a quarter line instead of applying it to half way.

International defensive back passes to the keeper from outside the penalty area can be made illegal at the expense of a free kick, and how about the old chestnut of having two referees on the field as Australian rules have recently introduced so successfully?

The old head in the sand attitude that football is perfect the way it is, and that nothing needs to be changed is totally irresponsible.

Australia's experiment in breaking with tradition by changing from winter to summer soccer shows every indication that it was a move in the right direction.

Yet, most of Europe, with its much harsher winters will not even consider such a logical departure from its old ways.

You won't get too many arguments that, with the possible exception of the Olympics, football's World Cup is the greatest sporting event on earth but is it ever played in winter?

Not on your life, every four years it provides a thrilling spectacle of football at the highest possible level, played in perfect conditions right in the middle of summer.

Yet the football traditionalists of Europe remain totally blind to such logic.

That's why the relatively minor suggestion put forward by Joao Havelange will act like a breath of fresh air in the previously staid, ultra-conservative world of football.

It just might prove to be the catalyst for a major, much-needed overhaul of the game as a whole at a time when it is so desperately needed.

Croatia's late spurt beats Olympic

BY DAVID COOPER

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 SYDNEY CROATIA 3

FIVE goals in nine minutes saw a pretty lifeless game turn into action packed last quarter of an hour.

The first half saw little goalmouth action as neither side could capitalise on any chances that came their way.

It seemed as though it would remain that way until the 75th minute when Tony Popovic found the back of the net to break the deadlock.

Then only four minutes later David Batten put Croatia 2-0 up when his shot gave the goalkeeper no chance.

However, Croatia's joy was short-lived as Olympic struck back in the 80th and 81st minutes when Baltazia and Pontidas put away their shots to bring the scores to 2-2.

Croatia again took the lead when Zec, who only just came on as sub, scored with his first touch.

OLYMPIC: Refenes, Triantafyllou L, Paragiorgou, Badrov, Georgopoulos, Pontidas, Triantafyllou A, Baltazis, Spyridakos, Araujo (Sharples), Cardozo.

CROATIA: Kalac, Milicevic (Alilovic), Zizic, Barisic, Popovic, Moric (Zec), French, Batten, Bojkovski, Gonzales.

BLACKTOWN 0 AIS 1

The Institute's first opportunity came in the 10th minute when Brad Maloney chipped in for Kris Trajanovski. His header from 15 metres went over Blacktown

keeper Steve Mautone and the crossbar as well.

Tony Pangallo had an exceptional game and was creating big problems for the Demons defence by getting forward at every opportunity.

In the 31st minute he cut the ball back from just such a run for Trajanovski to hit a tremendous shot on the turn which was miraculously saved by Mautone.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 66th minute when George Sorras under extreme pressure hit a splendid left foot shot to send the ball flying into the top corner of the goal and earn the AIS two valuable points.

BLACKTOWN: Mautone, Longo, Langan, Beggie, Comerford, Shipley, Lees, Bourke, McArdle, McKinna, Bogeys.

AIS: Talia, Jones, Wells, Koliba, Romaniuk, Pangallo, Sorras, Cranney, Corica, Trajanovski, Maloney.

MARCONI 0 MELITA 2

Two penalties in the first half enabled Melita to beat Marconi at Bosley Park.

The two penalties were both converted by Gus Cerro, the first when Perinich was brought down by Schwarzer and the second right before half-time when Cerro himself was felled by Charlwood after he beat two defenders and was about to shoot.

MARCONI: Schwarzer, Carluccio, S. Surjar, Marimone, Charlwood, A. Surjar, Suzor (Mendez), Clune, Lopez, Colaguri, Villella (Messina).

MELITA: Marco, Souris, Rizzotto, Hall, Farrugia, Cur-

mi, Perinich (Bastista), Pintos, Novokmet, Cerro (Pari-son), Cabral.

NSL CUP

APIA 1 AIS 5

A hat-trick by AIS striker, Kris Trajanovski, highlighted his side's 5-1 away win to Apia Leichhardt at Lambert Park on Saturday in their deferred National Youth Cup match.

Despite the one-sided scoreline, Apia proved to be tough opponents throughout the match, and the scoreline pleased AIS coach Ron Smith as Apia are the only side to defeat the AIS this season.

The AIS got off to a good start when in the sixth minute George Sorras get in behind the defence and crossed the ball to Mario Crivari who scored with a header.

Apia fought back strongly, often stretching the AIS defence and eventually equalised in the 25th minute when Anthony Pisano headed home a corner.

The AIS scored their second goal in the 35th minute when Troy Cranney won a tackle on halfway and played it to Trajanovski who ran through the defence to score.

It then took until the 65th minute for the AIS to score their third goal when Shane Black chipped a corner to the near post. Zoran Bizimovski flicked the ball to Trajanovski, who scored from 10 metres.

In the 68th minute, Darren Hillier made a promising run inside the box before being fouled by Matthew Dihm. Referee Nisalous Asargiotis had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot. Sorras scored the penalty to put the AIS up 4-1.

Finally, an 85th minute cross by Steven Corica to Trajanovski enabled him to beat the keeper and complete the goalscoring.

APIA: Sal Butera, Anthony Franze, Mathew Dihm, John Cosentino, Robert Gallo, Peter Lahams, Michael Reda, Anthony Pisano, Julian Gulic, Aldo Martinida, Simon Benofits.

AIS: Frank Juric, Darren Hillier, Jason Koliha, Simon Romaniciv, Mario Crivas, George Sorras, Zoran Bizimovski, Troy Ceanney, Steven Corica, Kris Trajanovski, Shane Black.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	12	7	4	1	24	9	18
Marconi	13	5	4	4	17	12	14
APIA	11	5	4	2	11	9	14
St George	11	5	2	4	15	15	12
Melita	12	5	2	5	14	20	12
Blacktown	13	4	3	6	16	13	11
Olympic	12	5	1	6	18	17	11
Wollongong	12	3	2	7	12	20	8
Syd. Croatia	13	3	2	7	15	27	8

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Robert Pergoletti (left) of Corio-Geelong United, team-mate Paul Reedon (centre) and Geelong's Donny Smythe in the Geelong Advertiser Cup semi-final — ROY HAY photo.

Altona Gate retain league leadership

BY ROY HAY

YOUTH L. SOUTH

ALTONA Gate inflicted the first defeat for the season on Melbourne Croatia at Somers Street on Sunday by the score of 1-0.

The win took Altona Gate to the top of the National Youth League (Southern Division). The first half was very even, with Altona Gate pinned back in defence for long periods. Sasha Simovski raised the siege when he broke clear in the centre but with only goalie Joe Rados to beat he sent his shot wide.

For Croatia, George Tadic hit the bar with a header following a free-kick and Tom Lovric was unable to force the rebound over the line.

There was no score in the first half and Richard Milanovic almost broke the deadlock with a shot into the side-netting.

Altona Gate lost

Steve Zdraveski after making both its substitutions, but the 10 men took the lead with only seven minutes to play when Nick Madarovski lobbed the ball over Rados following a cross from the right.

Altona Gate survived some fierce Croatia pressure in the last few minutes, but George Tadic was sent off for a foul.

Melbourne City JUST beat North Geelong 2-1 at Schintler Reserve. JUST took the lead after eleven minutes when a mix-up in the visiting defence resulted in the ball being pushed through to Sasha Milojkovic.

Keeper, Bobby Simic, dived over the ball and the big striker picked himself up to put it into the empty net.

North created a string of chances, many of which fell to Ivan Skoko, but it was not his day and his shots and headers all went wide.

Ivan Dragicevic hit the bar with a cross-shot, while for JUST, Mick Soldatovic put a cross just beyond the reach of Milojkovic who was in the clear.

The second half was virtually one-way traffic as North took off defender Robbie Spehar and brought on Miro Stosic in attack.

Adrian Cervinski turned two defenders and shot just over the bar.

Then JUST keeper Peter Sorocuk came sprinting off his line to clear with his feet from the young striker.

His brother, David, made a long run from the back, exchanging passes with Miro Stosic and finished with a shot which beat Sorocuk and came back off the post. David Cervinski was through again and brought down in the area, but play was waved on.

Just when it seemed North would get no reward for its efforts, Steve Tabac's free kick found Adrian Cervinski at the edge of the goal area and he squeezed his shot inside Peter Sorocuk's near post.

North kept going, looking for a deserved winner, but left gaps at the back, which were exploited by substitute Richard Cucanic of JUST.

As he rushed into the area, Bobby Simic dived at his feet and a penalty was awarded. Neven Efendic struck it cleanly into the corner to give the home team victory.

South Melbourne Hellas White's leading scorer, Con Boutsianis, made the difference between his team and Caulfield City as he added two goals to his tally. Alex Rae, Jim Filis and Engel Schmidt battled hard for Caulfield, but Hellas won comfortably enough in the end.

Finding itself short of players, Hellas Blue pulled off a brilliant tactical switch, putting Victorian keeper, Angelo Karageorgiou on the left wing for the game against Heidelberg United. The keeper responded with two goals in the first half and Spiros Karnezis added a third, before George Mihailidis pulled one back for Heidelberg near the end.

Results

Melbourne City JUST 2 (Milojkovic, Efendic) North Geelong 1 (Cervinski), Preston Makedonia 2 (Lingurovski, Cassar) Sunshine George Cross 0, South Melbourne Hellas Blue 3 (Karageorgiou 2, Karnezis) Heidelberg United 1 (Mihailidis), Caulfield City 0 South Melbourne Hellas White 2 (Boutsianis 2), Melbourne Croatia 0 Altona Gate 1 (Madarovski), Clifton Hill 0 East Richmond 2 (Daglaras, Kalantzis).

League ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Altona Gate	18	14	2	2	47	14	30
Melb Croatia	16	14	1	1	56	13	29
SMHW	19	12	3	4	37	17	27
Melb City JUST	19	9	5	5	52	34	23
Sunshine GC	18	8	4	6	37	34	20
Geelong City	18	8	2	8	32	42	18
North Geelong	17	6	1	10	33	35	13
Heidelberg Utd	18	4	5	9	20	35	13
East Richmond	18	5	2	11	30	46	12
SMHB	17	4	2	11	23	49	10
Caulfield City	17	2	4	11	17	35	8
Clifton Hill	14	2	0	12	12	50	4



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AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS

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Gallant Central Coast down to Waverley at Pluim Park

BY PAUL GOODWIN

Jim Foley's Central Coast side, still without key striker Kerry Caban, finished strongly against a lively Waverley side at Pluim Park on Saturday night, but could not overhaul the Red, White and Blues who had taken a 23rd minute lead.

The home side had gone down 2-5 at Campbelltown seven days earlier and showed a marked improvement during an entertaining match, which saw Waverley record their second 1-0 win in succession.

New recruit Ian Witherspoon added his name to that of former Campbelltown teammate Peter Treacey who had grabbed the winner a week earlier.

The Scot finished off a move down the left, by angling the ball home from an acute angle, after a cross from another fresh face, Steve Milloy. With Joe Watson yet to return from suspension, the future can only look brighter and Orange Waratahs will have plenty to occupy them this weekend.

Campbelltown found Dulwich Hill too strong at Bensley Road and although being well in the game for long periods and only a goal down at the break, wound up on the wrong end of a 3-0 result.

A third-minute goal by Nelio Borges and some sensational saves by new keeper Kevin Farrar allowed the Madeira side to maintain control.

For the Vikings, Max Defblicibus hit the post and he, Gary Hatton and Sep Disch were all denied by the former Mount Druitt custodian in an impressive display for his new club.

A 75th minute goal by Scott Lanagan and a last-minute effort from Zaja Jabriel put Dulwich Hill out of reach following a crisp showing by the Portuguese-backed side.

Granville-Chile even surprised their most loyal supporters, gloomy at the half-time score of 2-0 in favour of visitors Rosebery Portugal at Garside Park, by storming home 3-2.

Rosebery had established a two-goal lead by half-time with Yorkshireman Mick Davy on the mark both times. A third minute header by the tall newcomer following a Tesoro cross opened proceedings and after Paul Harriot had fluffed a penalty attempt four minutes later, Davy blasted in number two when in receipt of a long ball out of defence in the 28th minute.

Rosebery failed to consolidate in the second half and Granville's David Holmes, an Englishman who appeared briefly for Campbelltown last term and scored many goals in the Illawarra league, soon had his name on the scoresheet from a



Granville Chile and Southern Districts are hoping for a crowd as large as the one which watched the Ethnic Cup final when they clash this weekend — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

direct free kick in the 33rd.

Then Enrico Monsalves with a 55th minute penalty and Cristian Castro with a goal in general play got the two goals that clinched what would have to be considered an unexpected win for home side.

Rick Somboli hit the post for the visitors soon after in a game that the Second Division debut team really let slip.

Auburn-Yugal emerged from a bruising encounter with Fairfield City at Knight Park with both points, enjoying a 2-0 lead at the break.

Paul Pettenon, the main thrust of the Yugal attack these days, helped himself to both goals, the first a crackling volley in the 28th and second a header seven minutes later.

Fairfield missed Remyle Gallaway when he was forced out with a facial wound that required stitches in the 30th minute, but the former Uruguay-Penrith side came back strongly in the second half and pulled a goal back through wingman Bruno Giarabella who lobbed the keeper, having picked up a long ball from Arhelo.

With the home side pushing forward, Auburn-Yugal was able to break swiftly in the 85th, Zoran Beluzic being brought down by George Gonzales and converting the penalty himself.

Auburn, for whom 19-year-old Vlado Zoric again showed some sparkling touches, will return to their new home, Lidcombe Oval, on Saturday, experimenting with a 6 p.m. kick off against Gladesville, who will be looking for their first win.

Southern Districts, in front of a healthy 546 crowd at the spacious Ernie Smith Reserve, signed midfielder Ugher Taskin from Port Hacking on Thursday and the youngster soon repaid the club's faith by scoring twice.

An acutely angled shot gave his side the

lead in the 23rd minute and a solo run in the 87th minute wrapped things up against a plucky Gladesville side.

In between, Oscar Celic scored in both the 58th and 68th minutes, with the 'Mitre Bears' replying in the 35th thanks to a Graeme Williamson volley, following a corner.

The Mount Druitt-Orange game was not expected to produce many fireworks and the 1-1 draw resulting from 90 minutes of fairly ordinary football bore this out.

Stephen Hooper put Orange-Waratah in front in the first half, but a half-fit Wayne Farnsworth brought himself on at half-time to give his side some bite and they managed to equalise through Simon Everett who latched onto a Farnsworth cross, hitting a fierce drive past Ben Hooper.

In the feature game at Cromer Park which brought together two unbeaten teams, Manly-Warringah and Petersham-Lusitanos, a tightly contested match finished with the scoresheet blank.

Appeals for penalties by Petersham when David Naylor, in the first half and Robbie Lowe, in the second, came down in the box fell on deaf ears and a last-minute clearance off the Manly line by John Farrell prevented a Cec Chetfield inswinging corner from causing a last-minute defeat for the home side.

Lusitanos had more chances, with Robbie Thompson and Craig Roole heading wide and Robbie Lowe's 67th minute shot being well

saved by Warwick Tingle, but the best effort was Van der Leeden's save for Petersham from John Doyle in the 15th minute, pushing a goal-bound shot round the post.

After two rounds only one team, Waverley, holds a 100 per cent record while Central Coast is the only side yet to pick up a point.

Much interest centres on this weekend's game between Southern Districts and Granville-Chile, where two sides who last met in the final of the Ethnic Cup as Turkey and Chile and drew 6,000 spectators, come together on Sunday at Ernie Smith Reserve.

Results

CAMPBELLTOWN VIKINGS 0, DULWICH HILL MADEIRA 3 (Borges, Lanagan, Jabriel), CENTRAL COAST 0, WAVERLEY 1 (Witherspoon), GRANVILLE-CHILE 3 (Holmes, Monsalves, Castro), ROSEBERY-PORTUGAL 2 (Davy 2), FAIRFIELD CITY 1 (Giarabella), AUBURN-YUGAL 3 (Pettenon 2, Beluzic (pen)), SOUTHERN DISTRICTS 4 (Taskin 2, Celic 2), GLADESVILLE-HORNSBY 1 (G. Williamson), MANLY-WARRINGAH 0, PETERSHAM LUSITANOS 0, MOUNT DRUITT TOWN 1 (Everett), ORANGE-WARATAH 1 (Stephen Hooper).

CORRECTION: Scorers for Fairfield City in Round One should have read ... Martinez and Gallaway (instead of Mortinez and Langan).

NSW SECOND DIVISION

ROUND 3 SATURDAY MARCH 17

Campbelltown v Fairfield
Central Coast v Dulwich Hill
Orange v Waverley
Yugal v Gladesville

SUNDAY

Southern Dists v Granville Chile
Rosebery v Manly Warringah
Mt Druitt v Petersham

Note ***

Bensley Rd***

Pluim***

Waratah SG***

Lidcombe Oval***

Ernie Smith

Cawarra Pk

Popenetta Pk

Arok shoots for reform

FROM PAGE 1

"However I think that the information given to 'the Old Man' (presumably a not unkind reference to Sir Arthur's seniority), was very questionable."

But Arok was quick to disclaim any desire to pour buckets on personalities and the game, when he met the media last week.

Rather was he keen to set the agenda for reform, and how vital it is in the Australian soccer context.

One seemingly radical thought for the Socceroos' future would be for them to train in Europe.

With the Belgian League's prolific scorer Frank Farina, and other Australian stars such as Eddie Krncevic, David Mitchell, Jim Patikas and Chris Kalantzis and more to come based over there, there may well be merit in the suggestion in future.

Arok was prepared to accept the blame for the occasional mistake, such as was occasioned when he played a travel-weary Socceroo skipper Charlie Yankos in the vital game against New Zealand at Mt Smart Stadium.

He reserved a caning for whoever locally was responsible for not passing on the request to play the vital World Cup eliminators in June and July, to the Oceania Football Confederation and/or FIFA.

This omission meant that the corner could not be turned by having the European-based Socceroos fresh and in Australia with the squad.

Regarding his soon-to-be appointed successor, he said: "The next guy should be patient, and certainly not vindictive."

"I don't see him discarding players from the last squad (against Moscow Torpedo).

"He should be well educated, and possess foresight and knowledge."

"Desirably he should be ready to learn, and I am prepared to help in any way."

NSL reform

Arok has no doubt that the National League should come in for improvement.

Obviously he expects that the report from Dr Graham Bradley should include the provision that clubs must meet all the criteria to be set out in an all-embracing franchise agreement, in respect of grounds, training grounds, finance, employment

of professional staff, five or six professional players, promotion, apprentice players, junior teams etc.

"It is irrelevant as to which clubs are in the NSL, and who are outside it. The thing that matters is which clubs meet the criteria."

Arok envisages 12 licenses being issued.

He saw no joy in the previous Brisbane entries, but is hopeful that the proposed Brisbane United will have the qualities needed, with the Hobarts, Newcastle and so on, to try to reach for the highest league.

On the subject of organisational staffing, which has provided much of the success of rugby league in recent seasons, Arok envisages only the most talented people being employed.

There would be a managing director, manager, and under them the sectional managers.

He is certainly not averse to having businessmen of high quality — a stockbroker, banking identity or whatever, as commissioners, saying "People are needed with foresight, imagination and direction."

"Apart from them, a technical committee is required."

"From the Bradley Report I expect positive things to happen."

It is easy to read into future requirements that the commissioner-type structure will apply to both the ASF and the NSL.

Arok referred to the work put in by general manager, Alan Vessey, to turn the financial corner, in conjunction with the Quit organisation and others.

Amongst his regrets was the decision by the ASF not to pick up the Australia Day proposal for Sydney, which would have meant big sponsorship and profit potential, NSW Government backing, and top overseas national teams competing.

The fly in the ointment was the decision not to commit the ASF for five years, plus a five year option.

Love him or just endure him, it should be allowed — with gratitude — that Arok's ability and unmatched energy have already had a big bearing on the past decades of Australian soccer.

All being well, in his chosen club field and wherever else he decides to apply himself, it can readily be expected that his outstanding contribution is far from completed.

NSW FEDERATION LOWER DIVISIONS

Federation League four

Croatia Sydney Juniors
Eastwood St Andrews
Hawkesbury District
Nineveh Eagles
Padstow Park
Rangers Hajduk
Spanish Club
Trasandinos
SSC Zagreb
Rooty Hill Gunners
Belmore Hercules
Concord Juniors

Federation League Five

Arncliffe
Blacktown Wanderers
Colo Colo
Chile Sports
CSI Schofields
Lithgow Workmen
Macquarie University
Sydney University
Sporting Peru
Prospect United
Ashour Star
Maccabi Hakoah

Federation League Six

Abruzzi
Alexander
Liverpool City
Pagewood Botany
Western Districts Hellas
Balmain
Fogolar Furlan
Assyrian
Liverpool Olympic
NC Lazio Sport
St Josephs
Penrith
Pontain Eagles
GNS United



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NSW Amateurs' insurance cover

AS a result of negotiations which have taken place to arrange insurance for the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation Ltd for the 1990 season, a number of major improvements to the policies have been made without affecting the premiums.

The improvements are far-reaching and are quite remarkable, particularly as the sponsorship to the amateur body has also been increased from \$42 000 to \$80 000.

The more important changes as arranged in conjunction with the Amateur Federation's new broker, Tolley and Gardner, are as follows:

1. Personal Accident cover has now been extended to include referees, coaches and managers (as if they have paid a full premium) at no charge;

2. Public Liability cover has also been extended to referees, coaches and managers, including claims that may arise as a result of instruction, advice or breach of a professional duty;

3. Both policies are for a 14-month period, again at no extra charge, in order that future years' policies

may be in line with soccer seasons;

4. The loss of income cover has been extended from 12 months to 18 months maximum;

5. Compensation whilst travelling has been increased from 20% to 30% of the scheduled capital benefit;

6. Death cover has been increased by \$10 000 for non full-time students and \$2 000 for students;

7. Loss of kidney and funeral expenses have been added as additional events claimable under the policy;

8. Parents' inconvenience allowance has been increased from \$15 per day of their child's hospitalisation to a flat \$200.

Full details of the new policies will be circulated to all clubs through their associations in the form of a *Claims Procedure Manual* and will also be published in the 1990 *General Information Handbook* also to be circulated to all clubs.

Further details for publication may be obtained from Cec Bucello, General Manager NSWASF on 629 2833 or Barry Capelin, Director Tolley and Gardner on 929 4166.

COUNTRY AGENTS

MORTON Brothers Toyworld, located at 206 Auburn Street, Goulburn, is the first country NSW Amateur Soccer Federation agent to be appointed.

As such, they will be carrying an extensive range of soccer merchandise which, until now, has only been available direct from the Amateur Federation.

Bob Lockley, proprietor of the new agency, is confident that there will be a great deal of interest in the new range from the vast number of soccer players and supporters in the Southern Tablelands.

The range includes a selection of all the latest and most popular soccer publications, soccer videos and soccer promotional material, including key fobs, spoons and embroidered badges.

A full selection of World Cup material and leisure wear will also be available.

Clubs within the Southern Tablelands Soccer Association which is, of course, the largest sporting body in the area, will be advised of the new agency and encouraged to visit the store to examine the range of soccer merchandise available. Morton Brothers Toyworld will be the exclusive NSWASF agent in Goulburn.

Retailers wishing to be considered for agencies in other areas should contact the General Manager of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation on 629 2833 for further details.

Mike Donohoe, marketing co-ordinator of GHFC, said that the support of a company of the size and standing of Mitre 10 would supply a sound financial base from which to develop the clubs activities from their shiny new home ground complex at Christie Park, near Macquarie University.

"As well as the major sponsorship of Mitre 10, GHFC have been able to obtain further financial support from Independent Tyre Service, Wallboard Tools, MacDonalds and Friskies Pet Care (Lucky Dog dog food) which, together with the generous offer from Mitre 10, will give us the opportunity to come up with the best for our most valuable assets — the players, from juniors to first grade," Donohoe said.

Gladesville-Hornsby Mitre sponsorship

GLADESVILLE Hornsby have signed a sponsorship package with Australia's largest Hardware group, Mitre 10.

In announcing the package, Mr Paul Waite, managing director of Mitre 10, said that the contract with the "Bears" would run for a two year period.

"Mitre 10 backs up a variety of community projects throughout Australia," Mr Waite said, "and we are proud to add sponsorship of the Bears through 1990 and 1991 to that list of projects".

The sponsorship package covers not only the Federation teams, but the Youth League and Metropolitan Representative teams as well, and will see the clubs teams sporting the Mitre 10 logo on their strip as soon as the season commences.

Blacktown boys have come on

BY KEITH GILMOUR



Two youngsters defy gravity to display their skills at one of David Lee's Blacktown City camps.

A look at the progress of some of the young players who were involved in the aborted Blacktown City super squad has raised some definite conclusions in the mind of NSW Director of Coaching, David Lee.

It was Lee who had 'hands on' control of the courses in the early 80s, and they were designed to produce some super youth players by 1990.

The Demons termin-

ated the course in 1985, but the basis training given to the boys had a continuing influence.

Goalkeeper John Crawley was recently signed by the top Chilean club Colo Colo after being spotted on a schoolboy tour.

Damien Runce commands a \$1,500 per game fee with the Cee Bees in Hong Kong.

Paul Welch made it to the Young Soccer-oos, and Steve Refenes in starting to show his worth with Sydney Olympic.

Brad Maloney and

As a result of this progressive move by Tasmania, a large area north of the Hawkesbury River has been left without a regional coach.

The position of regional coach is vitally important to country areas.

In this particular case it is even more so because the area in question has over 14,000 registered players to service.

Anyone interested in taking on this vital role should contact the Secretary of the Northern Branch on (049) 30 4365 for further details.

Meanwhile, we should congratulate Les Bee on his promotion and wish him all the best for the future.

Rob Stanton won places at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Eddie Clune arrived back recently from a month's trial with Manchester United.

Russell Gendle and Paul Haywood toured with the Australian schoolboys to Europe in 1987.

The Blacktown Super Squad operated on a tiny budget compared with that applying to Australian Institute of Sport.

It achieved a great deal, even though it lasted just a few years.

What a difference there would have been had it been carried on.



The bad luck story of the month must surely go to young Dragoslav Skuljica of Avala Youth Soccer club, who, along with his teammate Dalibor Strbac, was picked for the State under 13 team to play in Melbourne against teams from different overseas clubs — surely a dream for most boys.

Dragoslav unfortunately had his leg broken in a tackle in a trial match against Marconi under 14 on the previous Sunday.

All his team-mates and friends wish him a quick recovery.

REGIONAL NEWCASTLE POSITION

LES Bee, regional coach for the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation's northern Branch, has been promoted to the position of State Director of Coaching, Tasmania.

Les was Director of Coaching, ACT, prior to taking up the position of regional coach, Northern Metropolitan encompassing the Central Coast, Hunter, Newcastle and Macquarie Associations.



The entire Australian Schoolboys and Schoolgirls squad assembled at Parklea. The US section of their tour was successful, but atrocious weather in the UK restricted the boys to one match.

UMBRO YOUTH LEAGUE

ROUND 2 SUNDAY MARCH 11 DIVISION 1

		U13	U14	U15	U17
Cant/M'ville	v St George	def	1-2	1-1	1-1
Macarthur	v Syd Olympic	1-1	2-2	1-4	0-4
Illawarra	v APIA	1-0	2-0	0-1	0-10
Nepean	v Syd Croatia	2-0	3-2	0-2	0-2
Bankstown	v Melita	2-5	0-1	3-1	3-2
Sutherland	v Blacktown City	def	0-0	2-4	1-2

SATURDAY MARCH 10

Sthn Districts	v Marconi	0-3	1-1	0-1	2-1
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SUNDAY MARCH 11 DIVISION 2

Fairfield City	v Ku-ring-gai	3-3	1-1	2-1	1-1
Granville	v Canterbury	1-2	3-3	0-3	1-1
Sthn & Eastern	v Warringah	4-0	0-1	5-1	1-5
Polonia	v Gladesville	0-5	0-4	1-0	6-0
Central Coast	v Manly Warringah	3-1	3-3	1-4	1-2
Rockdale	v Avala	1-0	2-0	6-0	4-1
Sthn Branch	v Blacktown	1-3	3-2	1-8	4-1



JOHAN CRUYFF — voted best player of the 1974 World Cup despite Holland's defeat in the final.

A new trophy, a new look competition, a new superstar. But the Brazil of 1970 (and Pelé) had gone, and in its place, to defend the world title if not the trophy, was a side more reliant on solid, uncompromising defence than on explosive attack.

As it was, Brazil's challenge for the new World Cup ended in ignominy.

But if Brazil's demise came with regret, it came nonetheless on the world stage.

This World Cup was to have two further four-team groups following the initial four groups, instead of quarter-finals and semi-finals. The winners of the two groups were to meet in the final; the runners-up playing a somewhat meaningless third place match.

For the third successive World Cup finals, the opening match produced a goalless draw, Brazil and Yugoslavia sharing 90 minutes of missed chances.

This result did not help the Scots, who were also in Group 2, especially when, the next day, they could put no more than two past an exhilarating but disorganised Zaire.

Earlier in Group 1, the West German challenge had begun with a 1-0 victory over Chile in Berlin; a performance far from worthy of the European champions.

Saturday saw Groups 3 and 4 in action and introduced the Dutch... plus Johan Cruyff; inspired, inspirational, and infuriating. Against Uruguay he was at his majestic best; seemingly indifferent to the seething tackles that aimed to maim, always prompting, stamping his personality on the match and the competition. Rep scored twice, and there could have been more.

After three days rest it was again the turn of Groups 1 and 2 and especially of Scotland, who met world champions Brazil in Frankfurt. Some truly brilliant goalkeeping by Harvey and a fine performance

HISTORY OF THE WORLD CUP (GERMANY 1974)

from skipper Bremner helped the Scots to a commendable goalless draw; but Brazil, still to meet Zaire, could afford the result, Scotland could not.

The news of Yugoslavia's record-equalling 9-0 thrashing of the Africans meant Scotland had to beat Yugoslavia to qualify for the next round — or draw and hope Zaire could hold Brazil to two goals.

On the Saturday, the respective dramas unfolded simultaneously. In Frankfurt, Scotland pulled back to 1-1 through Jordan — but to no avail. A draw was not enough: Brazil had squeezed a vital third against the Africans.

In Group 1, the two Germans, as expected, went through: The East convincingly, the West less so after a morale-sapping 1-0 defeat in a tense first-ever international between the two sides.

Earlier in the week, West Germany had beaten Australia 3-0, beginning impressively but falling away.

The Dutch, as expected, qualified, but their group contained one of the two real surprises of the tournament.

Sweden, after enjoying a goalless draw with the Dutch in Dortmund, hit three second-half goals past the Uruguayans in Dusseldorf to take the second qualifying place.

That same day the Bulgarians scored against the Dutch; albeit through an own goal by Krol — the only time Jongbloed was beaten until the final.

The other surprise was Italy's failure to qualify following a draw with Argentina and a telling defeat by the improving Poland.

If the Dutch thought they were in the harder group, it did not seem to worry them.

They opened in Gelsenkirchen with a 4-0 win over Argentina. Cruyff again supreme

with two goals. In Hanover, Brazil beat East Germany 1-0 with a Rivelino freekick, while in Group B, Lato added to his tally to produce a similar score against Sweden.

In Dusseldorf the West Germans, now with Bonhof in midfield, showed they were getting it together at last with a 2-0 win against Yugoslavia and a 4-2 victory over Sweden. Poland's success against Yugoslavia meant their match with the Germans was virtually a semi-final: winner take all.

In rain-soaked Frankfurt it took the reliable Müller to see the hosts through — after Hoeness had missed a penalty.

In Group A, the East Germans were no match for the ebullient Dutch, and Brazil suddenly flowered against Argentina in a thrilling game.

Brazil against Holland in Dortmund for the right to meet West Germany, a game that promises so much, produced two magnificent goals by Neeskens and Cruyff, and saw football at its worst.

The Dutch, niggling, were by no means blameless, but Brazil's conduct was indefensible.

The third place match, the day before the final, was the inevitable anti-climax and had gone 76 minutes before Lato scored his seventh goal of the World Cup finals to win it for Poland.

Other World Cup finals have been more entertaining; none have begun so dramatically.

From the Dutch kick-off, the ball was moved to Cruyff, whose burst into the penalty area ended when he was brought down by Hoeness. Penalty!

The first ever in a World Cup final.

Neeskens' shot from the spot flashed to the



centre of the goal as Maier dived to his right: 1-0, and no West German had touched the ball.

Now the Dutch took charge, with Cruyff directing operations in magisterial style.

But for all their monopoly of possession, they did not score and the West Germans, with Beckenbauer fully committed, recovered. With 24 minutes gone, Holzenbein was brought down by Jansen in the area.

Perhaps he could have evaded the tackle; but down he went; and Jack Taylor awarded his second penalty. This time it was highly debatable but Breitner made no mistake.

The Dutch continued to attack with vigour, but after Rep squandered a good chance Müller showed him how it should be done, controlling a poor pass and putting the ball away to give West Germany the lead.

And the FIFA World Cup. The second half, though full of incident, was goalless.

For Helmut Schoen, runner-up in 1966, third in 1970, it was the ultimate achievement.

Experimenting throughout the tournament, on the day that mattered he produced the right blend.

The Dutch might have been more adventurous, more attractive, but Schoen had a team with character to fight back from the shock of the early penalty. And he had Gerd Müller.

GROUP 1		POLAND v HAITI	7-0
		ARGENTINA v HAITI	4-1
		POLAND v ITALY	2-1
POINTS		POINTS	
WEST GERMANY v CHILE	1-0	POLAND	3 3 0 0 12-3 6
EAST GERMANY v AUSTRALIA	2-0	ARGENTINA	3 1 1 1 7-5 3
WEST GERMANY v AUSTRALIA	3-0	ITALY	3 1 1 1 5-4 3
EAST GERMANY v CHILE	1-1	HAITI	3 0 3 2 2-1 0
EAST GERMANY v WEST GERMANY	1-0	2ND ROUND	
CHILE v AUSTRALIA	0-0	GROUP A	
POINTS		BRAZIL v EAST GERMANY	1-0
EAST GERMANY	3 2 1 0 4-1 5	HOLLAND v ARGENTINA	4-0
WEST GERMANY	3 2 0 1 4-1 4	HOLLAND v EAST GERMANY	2-0
CHILE	3 0 2 1 1-2 2	BRAZIL v ARGENTINA	2-1
AUSTRALIA	3 0 1 2 0-5 1	HOLLAND v BRAZIL	2-0
GROUP 2		ARGENTINA v EAST GERMANY	1-1
BRAZIL v YUGOSLAVIA	0-0	POINTS	
SCOTLAND v ZAIRE	2-0	HOLLAND	3 3 0 0 8-0 6
BRAZIL v SCOTLAND	0-0	BRAZIL	3 2 0 1 3-3 4
YUGOSLAVIA v ZAIRE	9-0	EAST GERMANY	3 0 1 2 1-4 1
SCOTLAND v SCOTLAND	1-1	ARGENTINA	3 0 1 2 2-7 1
BRAZIL v ZAIRE	3-0	GROUP B	
POINTS		POLAND v SWEDEN	1-0
YUGOSLAVIA	3 1 2 0 10-1 4	WEST GERMANY v YUGOSLAVIA	2-0
BRAZIL	3 1 2 0 3-0 4	POLAND v YUGOSLAVIA	2-1
SCOTLAND	3 1 2 0 3-1 4	WEST GERMANY v SWEDEN	4-2
ZAIRE	3 0 0 3 0-14 0	SWEDEN v YUGOSLAVIA	2-1
GROUP 3		WEST GERMANY v POLAND	1-0
HOLLAND v URUGUAY	2-0	POINTS	
SWEDEN v BULGARIA	0-0	WEST GERMANY	3 3 0 0 7-2 6
HOLLAND v SWEDEN	0-0	POLAND	3 2 0 1 3-2 4
BULGARIA v URUGUAY	1-1	SWEDEN	3 1 0 2 4-2 2
HOLLAND v BULGARIA	4-1	YUGOSLAVIA	3 0 0 3 2-6 0
SWEDEN v URUGUAY	3-0	THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF	
POINTS		POLAND v BRAZIL	1-0
HOLLAND	3 2 1 0 6-1 5	FINAL	
SWEDEN	3 1 2 0 3-0 4	WEST GERMANY v HOLLAND	2-1
BULGARIA	3 0 2 1 2-5 2		
URUGUAY	3 0 1 2 1-6 1		
GROUP 4			
ITALY v HAITI	3-1		
POLAND v ARGENTINA	3-2		
ARGENTINA v ITALY	1-1		

EUROPEAN CUP RESULTS

BY LOU GAUTIER

THE first leg of the three European Cup quarter-finals played last Wednesday produced no major surprise.

All the favourites are poised to make it to the semi-finals in April.

In the Champions' Cup, Marseille were the only team to win away from home when they beat Bulgaria's CFKA in Sofia with a late goal from last-minute selection Philippe Thys, who replaced Enzo Francescoli, involved in a row with coach Gili before the match.

AC Milan were lucky to escape with a point at the Heysel Stadium, Brussels, where Mechelen were well on top but the draw makes it almost certain the holders will be in the semis.

PSV did well to score an away goal at Bayern Munich and, on paper, they are the favourites to advance, while the Soviet champions, Dnepr, may find their one-goal deficit to Benfica hard to overcome as they are out of season.

In the Cup-Winners' Cup, Sampdoria, Anderlecht and Monaco seem home and hosed.

The first two won well at home and Monaco earned a draw in Spain, but Dinamo Bucharest v Partizan Belgrade is up for grabs, with the Yugoslavs slightly favoured after scoring a vital away goal in their two-goal defeat.

West German and Italian clubs will almost certainly fill the four semi-final berths in the

UEFA Cup, with Juventus especially impressive in their two-goal away win in Hamburg.

Werder Bremen also had an away romp at the expense of Belgium's Antwerp.

Those were the first leg results of the three European Cups' quarter-finals:

CHAMPIONS' CUP: CFKA Sofia 0 Marseille 1 (Thys), Bayern Munich 2 (Wohlfarth, Grahmer) PSV Eindhoven 1 (Povlsen); Mechelen 0 AC Milan 0; Benfica 1 (Magnusson) Dnepr 0.

UEFA CUP: Fiorentina 1 (Volpentina) Auxerre 0; Hamburg 0 Juventus 2 (Schillaci, Casiraghi); FC Liege 1 (Varga) Werder Bremen 4 (Riedle 2, Rufer, Bockenfeld); FC Koln 2 (Littbarski, Giske) Antwerp 0.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP: Dinamo Bucharest 2 (Raducioiu 2) Partizan Belgrade 1 (Spasic); Real Valladolid 0 Monaco 0, Sampdoria 2 (Vierchowod, Meierog) Grasshopper Zurich 0; Anderlecht 2 (Degryse 2) Admira Wacker 0.

The return legs will be played on March 20 and 21.

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Cowans plays it cool

GORDON Cowans isn't exactly getting excited about the chances of winning a League championship medal — despite Aston Villa's dramatic change in fortune this season.

The Villans got away with daylight robbery to stay in the top flight last term — if West Ham, had won their last game at Liverpool they would have sent Villa down — but their League record this season has been a revelation.

So is now the time to start considering Villa as genuine championship contenders?

One man who should have a good idea is Cowans, the inspiration behind Villa's triumphant title challenge in 1981 and the mastermind of much of their sparkling soccer this season.

But the 31-year-old former England star, who left Villa for a spell with Bari in the Italian First Division, is a firm believer in the oldest cliché in the game.

"The boss is almost embarrassed to mention it — but he really does say to us 'take each game as it comes'."

"Nobody is getting complacent — least of

all myself as I was left out of the side after just three games at the start of the season. The boss thought I was dropping too far back to pick the ball up off our defence and I suppose he was right. It was just something that had subconsciously crept into my game during my three years in Italy."

Clearly stability is a key word at Villa Park these days and the widely rumoured rift between Taylor and chairman Doug Ellis would appear to be a thing of the past.

Cowans is keen to confirm this new attitude.

"There is a tremendous buzz about the whole place, which is what a city the size of Birmingham needs. It also seems to be a policy of Graham Taylor's to get as many players as possible to sign long-term contracts."

"The club went into decline in the mid-eighties because the European Cup-winning side of '82 was broken up at least a couple of years too early."

"It's impossible to compare the squad of '82 with today's, apart from the similarities between wingers Tony Morley and Tony Daley. Incredible speed is a feature both share and Daley's distribution has improved dramatically this season."

The cagey Cowans believes that Daley is one of a handful of players who have responded to the encouragement of the famous Holte End.

"A big crowd at Villa Park still creates a very special atmosphere, but we're also taking an average of 3,000 fans to every away game."

"Who knows, we might even have a few more than that at Everton on May 5, and hopefully we'll all have something to really celebrate."

— courtesy SHOOT

FERNANDO REIGNS IN SPAIN

DON BALON, the mass-circulation Spanish football weekly, voted Valencia midfielder **Fernando** Spanish First Division Player of the Year for 1989.

Real Madrid's Michel was the runner-up and Barcelona's Bakero was third.

Spanish First Division Goalkeeper of the Year was Cameroun's 1982 World Cup star, N'Kono, who plays for Espanol of Barcelona.

Belgium will enjoy role of outsiders

BELGIUM, unexpected semi-finalists in Mexico four years ago, have happily slipped back into their old role as outsiders for the World Cup finals in Italy.

In 1986 the modest Belgians defied the odds when they sneaked through the first round and on to a last four clash with eventual winners Argentina.

Their success earned them unprecedented prestige in international soccer and a seeding for this year's finals.

But a recent string of disappointing results has undermined the image and given Belgium a chance to take on the mantle they prefer — that of underdogs.

Their last two qualifying matches, against Switzerland and Luxembourg, were anaemic draws. Then they crashed 2-0 to Greece in a friendly early in February.

But coach Walter Meeuws said he has just the remedy to prevent any embarrassing repeat performances.

The key, he said, lay in a return to greater emphasis on defensive skills, coupled with lightning counter-attacks.

"We'll have to start playing in the typically Belgian way again," he said. "We've got a talented group of players, but we're at our best when we play in a very disciplined, well-organised manner and are quick on the break."

The backbone of his team will be a four-man defence, or perhaps even five, thus marking a return to the system that was Belgium's trademark in Mexico.

Meeuws has four friendly matches left, against Sweden, Romania, Mexico and Poland, to fine-tune his team before the World Cup.

"A coach is always short of time, especially the national coach," said Meeuws, who, in a unique show of confidence and to avoid uncertainty and worry for the players, has already named eight of the men he intends to take to Italy.

They are goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme, defenders Georges Grun, Leo Clijsters, Stephane Demol and Eric Gerets, midfielders Marc Degryse and Franky Van der Elst and striker Jan Ceulemans.

"They will make a strong team. It is a mixture of experience, routine, maturity with Ceulemans and Gerets, and young talent such as Degryse," said Meeuws.

"Ceulemans has an incredible reputation abroad. He's very strong and smart and has enough experience to show up in front of the goal at the right time."

"Gerets has enormous will-power.



ENZO SCIFO — starring for Auxerre in France, but on the bad books of Belgium's national team coach.

Although he's already 35 he still loves the game," Meeuws said. "Degryse adds sparkle to the team. He's technically superior, a fantastic player."

Degryse has taken over in midfield from 1986 World Cup star Enzo Scifo, who has recently fallen from grace although starring for Auxerre in France.

"Scifo is a great player but Degryse fits better into the team."

Meeuws left Scifo out of his squad for the match against Greece earlier this month to punish him for boycotting a training session and criticising the coach's decisions.

Meeuws had announced he would put Scifo on the substitutes' bench after the player called a press conference to say he should play the whole match.

He anticipates few problems with foreign-based Belgian players during the preparation period. Only Stephane Demol could miss part of the World Cup build-up programme if his club Porto qualify for the Portuguese Cup final.

Belgium will prepare for the finals in Brussels and fly to Verona only on June 9, three days before their first match

against South Korea.

"Don't forget we still have four teams involved in European competitions. It means that the months of March and April will be very tiring for many players. They can do without any extra travelling," Meeuws said, "and it will allow the players to see their wives more often."

The four-week preparation programme begins after the Belgian league ends on May 12, although some players may be involved in the domestic cup final one week later. It will end with a match against Poland on June 6.

Players and team officials will be based in Pescantina. 12

kilometres outside Verona and close to the Garda lake.

"Verona is a great place to be. We had hoped for Milan or Turin. Verona is even better," Meeuws said. "The climate is ideal. It's never too hot and it's not too far for Belgian fans to make the trip by car."

STOP PRESS — In a shock development over the weekend, Walter Meeuws has been sacked and replaced by Guy Thys, who led Belgium to the semi-finals of the 1986 World Cup.

Rodriguez sacked

COSTA RICA have sacked national coach **Marvin Rodriguez** despite his success in guiding the national team to the World Cup finals for the first time.

His sacking coincided with the election of Isaac Sasso to the presidency of the Costa Rican Federation.

Six national team players are reported to have given the Federation an ultimatum — either Rodriguez goes, or we won't play in Italy.

The Costa Ricans have approached Luis Cesar Menotti to take charge of their World Cup squad. They are also interested in Omar Sivori, the Argentine great who starred in Italy in the late 50s and 60s.



GORDON COWANS — realistic about Aston Villa's title hopes this season.

Romario may miss finals

ROMARIO, the Brazilian ace who has broken a splint bone, was at home in stable condition and doctors said his recovery and rehabilitation might take at least 10 weeks.

The Brazilian newspaper O GLOBO quoted Brazilian national team coach Sebastiao Lazaroni as saying he would hold a berth open on their team for the injured attacker in the hope he will recover in time for the World Cup in June.

Romario, 24, the high-scoring center-forward for PSV Eindhoven, broke his leg during his team's 9-2 league victory over Den Haag.

With his lower right leg in a cast, Romario began a period of rest to

allow his bone to set, said Cees-Rein van den Hoogenband, the staff physician for PSV Eindhoven, the star striker's current employer and the reigning Dutch soccer champs.

"He's going to be in a cast for at least six weeks, and his rehabilitation will take another four," Van den Hoogenband said.

It was by no means certain whether Romario would recover in time to participate in the World Cup.

The Brazilian team, one of the top contenders for the World Cup, is to begin full-scale preparations on April 25.

Lazaroni told reporters the injury did not automatically eliminate Romario from the Brazilian team for the World Cup.



IAN RUSH, Liverpool's prodigious goalscorer, claims the football at the stretch from Millwall's Allen Wood. The Reds won 1-0.

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER



- The Hungarian and Austrian Federations are holding talks to explore the possibility of a joint First Division in the future which would include eight teams from both countries.
- Yugoslav international defender Faruk Hadzibegic is likely to leave Sochaux, of France, next season for Spain's Betis Sevilla.
- Portugal have retained their European indoor title by beating Czechoslovakia 3-1 in the final of the eight-team competition in Portugal. Spain came third, England fourth. Other participating countries were Israel, Holland, Hungary and Italy.
- Former West German World Cup supremo Jupp Derwall is the new coach of the Turkish national team, replacing Tinaz Tirpan.
- The future of two Yugoslav clubs are in grave danger. Rad Belgrade and Spartak are heavily in debt and their sponsors have refused to cover their massive deficits.
- Two Dynamo Dresden players who were banned from the East German national team in 1981 have been rehabilitated. Mathias Muller and Peter Kotte had been suspended for not 'dobbing in' another international, Gerd Weber, who was planning to defect to the West.
- Belgian First Division club Beveren have sacked their coach, Rik Pauwels. His assistant, Eddy Roelants, is in charge for the remainder of the season.
- Juan Cayasso has been voted 1989 Costa Rican Player of the Year.
- Turkey's first international of the year will be against Denmark in Copenhagen on April 11.
- Former Chilean international and national team coach, Francisco Hormazabal, has died in Santiago at the age of 59.
- Hungarian soccer is also mourning the death of a former international and coach, Jenos Kalmar has passed away at the age of 90 after a long career in Hungary, Austria and Spain.
- Austrian great Hans Krankl, now the coach of Rapid Vienna, will coach Bundesliga side FC Nurnberg next season.
- Dortmund's West German international striker Andreas Moller will play in Italy next season, possibly for Lecce. The Bundesliga will sign East German star Rainer Ernst to replace him.
- The 1989 West German Player of the Year is FC Koln midfielder Thomas Hassler, who will almost certainly join countrymen Thomas Berthold and Rudi Voller at AS Roma next season.
- Guimaraes coach Paulo Autuori risks a heavy fine and a suspension for accusing Portuguese referees of "favouring" the country's top three club clubs, Porto, Sporting and Benfica. Autuori's Guimaraes have been challenging the glamour clubs for top honours this season, but the coach claims referees are biased against his team.
- FK Austria Wien's Argentine striker Jose Percudani has been loaned to Atletico Madrileno for the remainder of the season. Madrileno is Atletico Madrid's nursery team.
- Daniel Passarella is the new coach of River Plate although he has yet to complete his coaching exams. His assistant is Ruben Gallego, another of the Argentine club's all-time great players.
- Ben Yahia, the libero of Esperance Tunis and of the national team, was voted Tunisian Player of the Year for 1989.
- Ernst Kuzorra, who played in the midfield for Schalke 04 and for the German national team in the 1930s, has died in Frankfurt at the age of 82.
- Manuel Lapuenta is the new coach of the Mexican national team. Lapuenta was the coach of First Division Puebla.
- FC Zurich became the first Swiss club to sign a black South African player — striker Make-lakelana, from Soweto Swallows.
- FC Porto goalkeeper Zebeto was killed in a car accident two weeks ago.
- Roberto Fleitas has taken over from Walter Roque as coach of Penarol of Uruguay. Fleitas has vowed to bring the Libertadores Cup back to Montevideo.
- Yugoslav international Milko Djurovski has been sentenced to six months in jail for forging cheques.
- Swedish international Stefan Lindqvist has been transferred from Halmstad to Neuchatel Xamax of Switzerland. He will link up with countryman Peter Lonn at the club.
- Lucky Zimharti, one of Zimbabwe's best players, has been sentenced to two years in prison for killing a fan after a First Division game last year.

Czechoslovaks hope to shed their dour image

BY HESTER ABRAMS*

ENCOURAGED by a new optimism at home and the experience of their West European exiles, Czechoslovakia are hoping to shrug off their image as a technically accomplished but defensive team when they take part in the World Cup finals in Italy.

The Czechoslovaks will be making their first appearance in the finals since 1982 when they were eliminated in Spain without winning a game.

This time coach Jozef Venglos is determined to make up for that disappointing exit and reproduce the football which carried the Czechoslovaks to the final in both 1934 and 1962 when they lost to Italy and Brazil respectively.

"This year's team is different," said Venglos. "They know what they want. They are tougher and they can make it through to the next round. We won't be going to Italy in a defensive mood."

For the first time, Czechoslovakia will travel to the finals with a squad strengthened by players returning home

from experience with West European club sides.

"Those returning from abroad have been toughened by good competition," said Czechoslovak sports journalist Vladimir Zemanek. "They'll give the team confidence."

"They've been able to prove that the best Czechoslovak players compare favourably with standards set elsewhere in Europe."

Venglos, who was in charge of the 1982 team in Spain, is a well-travelled coach with a reputation for his defensive tactics who has worked in Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia and Portugal as well as in Czechoslovakia.

His critics believe he will have to make big adjustments to his thinking before Czechoslovakia meet Italy, Austria and the United States in June.

"Venglos's defensive tactics always helped the team get through the qualifiers, but his problems start when they have to score to win," said Zemanek. "He's bound to modify his style this time."

The nucleus of Venglos's squad is likely to come from league leaders Sparta Prague whose

outstanding defender Michal Bilek, normally plays in midfield for the national team where, in addition to his skill, he is recognised as a dead-ball expert in the Michel Platini class.



JOE VENGLOS

Alongside Bilek, Lubomir Moravcik from Plastika Nitra looks most likely to be a star performer with his incisive attacking skills on the left side of midfield.

The tall Tomas Skuhravy, who provides the thrust and aerial strength in attack, is another likely candidate for recognition by western scouts.

Jozef Chovanec, who plays for Dutch champions and former European Cup holders PSV Eindhoven, Frantisek Straka of Borussia Moenchengladbach in West Germany and Jan Kocian from Hamburg's Sankt Pauli provide battle-hardened experience in defence.

Other players based in western Europe like striker Stanislav Griga, now with Feyenoord Rotterdam, Sankt Pauli striker Ivo Knoflicek and midfielder Lubos Kubik, who plays for Fiorentina in Italy, will also play a major part in a team sure to be one of the most skilful and possibly under-rated in the tournament.

Their return, coupled with the overthrow of Communist rule in Czechoslovakia and the expected relaxation of the transfer regulations, could well encourage many of the younger players to use the World Cup as an opportunity to advertise and market themselves to foreign clubs.

This could be a problem for Venglos as he attempts to weld a team from his many dazzling individuals during a warm-up and training programme which began in early February with a training camp in Mallorca and a match against Spain on February 21 (lost 0-1).

A match with Egypt and one against England in April will be the most important tests of their fitness, followed by an encounter with West Germany on May 26.

* courtesy REUTERS

DEFIANT TBILISI

TOP Georgian club Dynamo Tbilisi have defied a decision by the Transcaucasian republic's football federation to pull out of the Soviet league in the coming season.

The Georgian federation voted to take no part in the Soviet championship on grounds that the recent outbreaks of violence across the country meant its teams' safety at away matches could not be guaranteed.

But Dynamo Tbilisi, the only Georgian side in the Soviet First Division, condemned the move as "self-imposed isolation" which would limit the development of the sport in the republic.

Dreaded Milwall

A new survey of British likes and dislikes published in a poll in the DAILY EXPRESS, a right-wing London daily, shows that Milwall fans are high on the hate list.

Some 1,200 respondents dislike them intensely, along with bookmakers, men who wear white socks, limp handshakes, gold medallion wearers — and the French!

The South American Scene

WITH MARIO ETCHART

The modest Venezuelans from Pepeganga de Margarita lead group 5 of the Libertadores Cup after two important wins at home over Uruguayans Progreso and Defensor Sporting.

Pepeganga won both games 1-0 at their stadium of Puerto Nuevo in San Cristobal.

In the first match, Venezuelan striker Santana scored the only goal in the 26th minute of the first half against Progreso, while Guillermo Cortez converted in the 19th against Defensor Sporting.

Previously, Progreso scored a very important away victory over compatriots Mineros de Guyana.

The Uruguayans won 3-1 at Cachamay Stadium in front of 20,000 spectators. Pepeganga leads the group with 4 points, followed by Progreso with 3, Mineros with 2 and Defensor Sporting with 0.

The Strongest, the oldest club in Bolivian football, won the National League after defeating Oriente Petrolero, 1-0 in the grand final played at Cochabamba's Felix Capriles stadium in front of 30,000 fans.

Argentine defender Gustavo Quinterro, with

a header, scored the winner for The Strongest in the 31st minute of the second half.

The Strongest and Oriente Petrolero will represent Bolivia in this year's Libertadores Cup.

The Bolivians will face Ecuadorians Emelec and Barcelona in the first qualifying round.

Independiente and River Plate share the lead in Argentina. Independiente was until last weekend two points ahead of River Plate, but Argentinos Juniors defeated the "Red Devils" 2-1 while River, in the local derby, beat Racing Club 1-0 away. Second placed Rosario Central drew with Gim-

nasia y Esgrima 0-0.

Independiente and River Plate are at the top of the table with 32 points from 26 matches, followed by Rosario Central with 32, Gimnasia y Esgrima 29 and Boca Juniors 28.

Saul Rivero, who coached Progreso to victory in the 1989 Uruguayan league, is the new coach of one of the Uruguayan big guns, Nacional de Montevideo, while ex-Nacional coach, Walter Roque, took control of Progreso.

Rivero signed a contract with Nacional for a reported \$35,000 for one year, plus a salary of \$2200 a month.



GILLETTE'S WORLD CUP COMPETITION is in full swing now as entries are flooding in from all over Australia from soccer lovers hoping to score a free trip to the World Cup finals in Italy.

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Gary Lineker

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Tues 3rd July.

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Option 2. Day in.

Wed 4th July.

In the morning sightseeing, tour of Rome and later in the afternoon departure to Tivoli and Villa Adriana, followed by a sumptuous dinner.

Thurs 5th July.

Option 1. a full-day tour of Florence with lunch at leisure and dinner at Orvieto. Option 2 is to take a shuttle bus to the centre of Rome. Dinner at the Quattro Fiumi and Trescatini Restaurants in Piazza Navonna.

Fri 6th July.

Free Day to take shuttle bus to centre of Rome. Gala dinner at Castello Di Bracciano.

Sat 7th July.

Option 1 is a tour of Sistene Chapel and Catacombs. Option 2 involves taking a shuttle bus to centre of Rome. Roman banquet at The Sheraton in the evening.

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WEDNESDAY, 4TH JULY

Morning sightseeing tour of Rome
Late afternoon departure to Tivoli and Villa Adriana, followed by dinner

THURSDAY, 5TH JULY

Option 1 Full day tour to Florence with lunch at leisure and dinner at Orvieto
Option 2 Shuttle buses to centre of Rome
Dinner at Quattro Fiumi and Trescatini restaurants in Piazza Navonna

FRIDAY, 6TH JULY

Free day
Shuttle buses to centre of Rome
Gala dinner at Castello Di Bracciano

SATURDAY, 7TH JULY

Option 1 Tour of Sistene Chapel and Catacombs
Option 2 Shuttle Buses to centre of Rome
Roman banquet at The Sheraton

SUNDAY, 8TH JULY

Free morning
Mass at St. Peter's
Late lunch barbeque at The Sheraton
The final - Olympic Stadium, Rome

MONDAY, 9TH JULY

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- There is no limit to the number of entries. However, each entry must be on an official entry form and contain the correct Gillette pack.
- Any entry that does not comply with these conditions of entry shall not be a valid entry. Information on how to enter and prizes forms part of these conditions of entry.
- All entrants must be residents of Australia and a member or supporter of a soccer club/association in Australia. To be eligible, each entrant must nominate the name and address of their soccer club/association. Employees and their immediate families of Gillette (Aust) Pty Limited, their associated companies, advertising and sales promotion agencies are not eligible to enter or to receive any prizes.
- Prize draw will take place in Sydney on Monday 16th April, 1990. The entrant named in the first valid entry drawn will win a 10 day holiday for 2 to Italy. Prize consists of economy airfares for 2 from the state capital nearest the winner to Italy and return, meals, 7 nights luxury accommodation, airport transfers in Italy, organised sight-seeing events, double tickets to the soccer semi-final in Naples and the final in Rome, and tips in Italy. Personal expenses such as passports, visas, insurance, health requirements, spending money and all other ancillary costs are the responsibility of the winner. Travel prize valued at approximately \$14,332. Entrants named in the next 100 valid entries drawn will each win a Size 5 Kookaburra Cosmos Deluxe Soccer Ball. RRV \$29.95 each.
- The winning entrant's soccer club will receive a cheque for \$3,000. In the event that the club is located in Queensland, the prize will be awarded as gold bullion to the nearest value in the absolute discretion of the promoter.
- Travel prize must be taken between July 1st, 1990 and July 10th, 1990.
- All winners will be notified by mail and the first prize winner's name will be published in the Public Notices column of The Australian on Friday 27th April, 1990.
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- The judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. No responsibility for lost or misdirected mail will be accepted by the promoter, Gillette (Aust) Pty Limited, of 504-520 Princes Highway, Noble Park, Victoria, 3174.
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COMPETITION CLOSING 13TH APRIL 1990

GWS/ASW